

Clarice Julka
September 22, 2017
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disclosure.

Sierra Club has no commercial interest in the requested records, nor does it have any intention to use these records in any manner that "furthers a commercial, trade, or profit interest" as those terms are commonly understood. Sierra Club is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization under sections 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code, and as such has no commercial interest. The requested records will be used for the furtherance of Sierra Club's mission to inform the public on matters of vital importance to the environment and public health. Because the Sierra Club has no commercial interest at all, it is not necessary to consider the sixth criterion for a fee waiver, which compares the magnitude of the commercial interest with the public interest in disclosure.

Sierra Club respectfully requests that DOI waive processing and copying fees pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A) because the public will be the primary beneficiary of this requested information, and Sierra Club's request meets all of the necessary criteria for a waiver. In the event that your agency denies a fee waiver, please send a written explanation for the denial. Please do not incur expenses beyond \$250 without first contacting counsel for Sierra Club for explicit authorization.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you find that this request is unclear in any way, please do not hesitate to call me to see if I can clarify the request or otherwise expedite and simplify your efforts to comply. I can be reached at 415-512-4059 or by email at ellen.richmond@mto.com.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Ellen M. Richmond
Ellen M. Richmond
Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP
560 Mission St., 27th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105
415-512-4059
Ellen.richmond@mto.com

Counsel for Sierra Club

EMR:mp

Conversation Contents

Fwd: American Burying Beetle followup

Attachments:

/43. Fwd: American Burying Beetle followup/1.1
ABB_Briefingppt_May2018_for DOI.pptx

/43. Fwd: American Burying Beetle followup/1.2 ABBclimate PPTMay23 fnl
to HQ.pptx

Susan Combs <susan_combs@ios.doi.gov>

From: Susan Combs <susan_combs@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed May 23 2018 17:24:13 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: jfreilly@usgs.gov
Subject: Fwd: American Burying Beetle followup
Attachments: ABB_Briefingppt_May2018_for DOI.pptx ABBclimate
PPTMay23 fnl to HQ.pptx

Jim

Let's chat tmro about this as it pertains to modeling

Susan

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Fahey, Bridget" <bridget_fahey@fws.gov>
To: Susan Combs <susan_combs@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: "Frazer, Gary" <gary_frazer@fws.gov>, Greg Sheehan
<greg_j_sheehan@fws.gov>, Aurelia Skipwith <aurelia_skipwith@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: American Burying Beetle followup

Thanks for the discussion today. I'm following up with electronic copies of the powerpoint slides we used today to brief on ABB. Additionally, as you reach out to the new director of USGS, here is some information on the coordination done with USGS out in the field/region:

Staff from the Oklahoma Ecological Services Field Office initiated collaboration with the South Central Climate Science Center in August 2016. Dr. Esther Mullens (405-325-1272) under the supervision of center director Michael Langston (405-290-8348; mlangston@usgs.gov), was the primary scientist consulted at the Center. Dr. Mullens provided guidance on publicly available, peer-reviewed, downscaled climate projections relevant to the species status assessment and assisted developing analyses and determining appropriate uses and interpretations of the climate projections. She also peer reviewed the ABB SSA. Additional USGS staff also provided information, advice, and peer review; but Dr. Mullens was our primary contact on climate analysis.

Hope this helps. Let Greg, Gary or I know if you need anything else.

Bridget Fahey
Division Chief for Conservation and Classification

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
(703) 358-2163

American Burying Beetle

Proposed downlisting

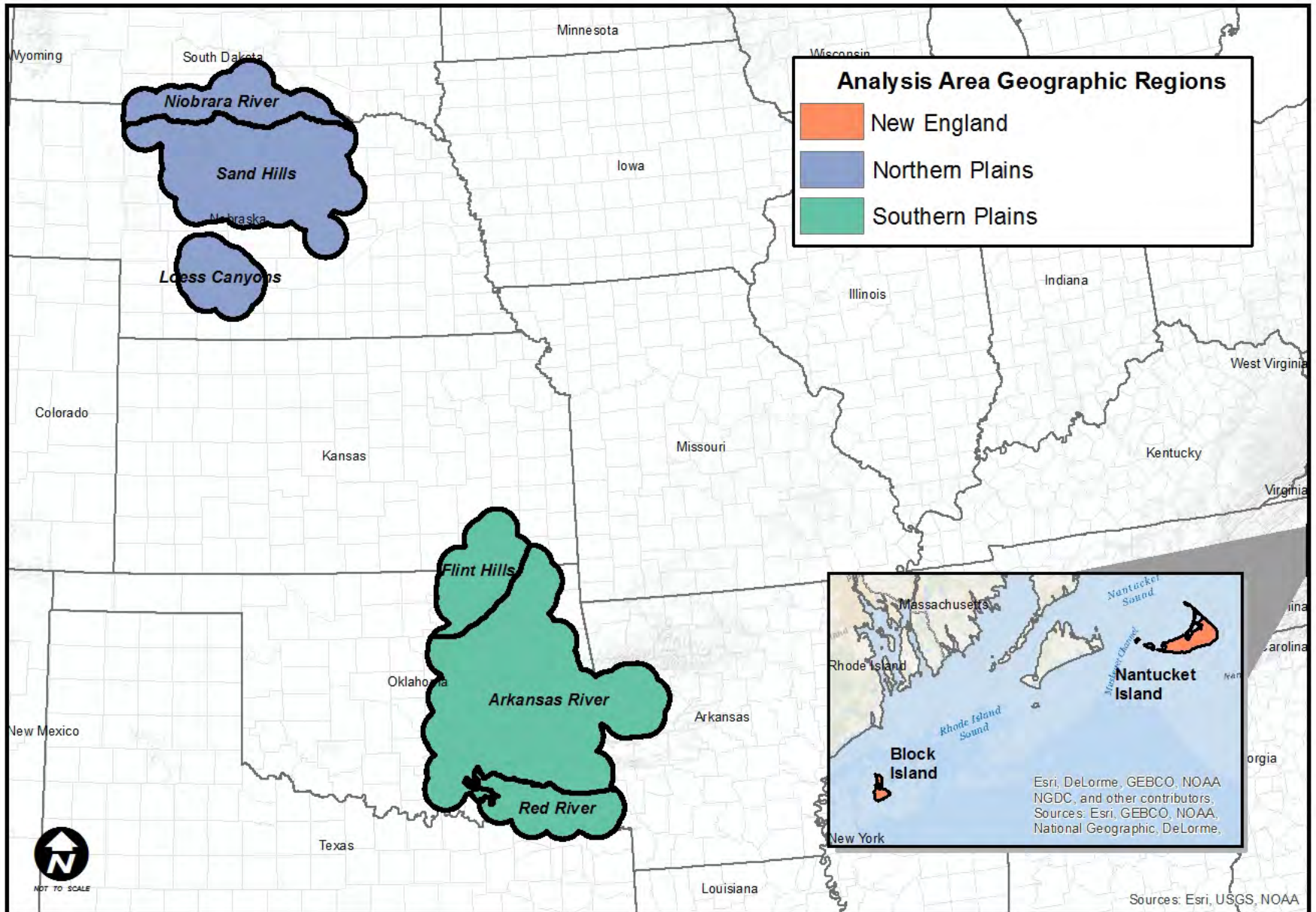
and 4(d) rule



Overview of Briefing

- SSA analysis areas and process
- ABB life history and species needs
- Threats: Temperature and the ABB
- Recommended Direction
- Proposed 4(d) rule
- Partnerships/Stakeholders

American Burying Beetle SSA Analysis Areas



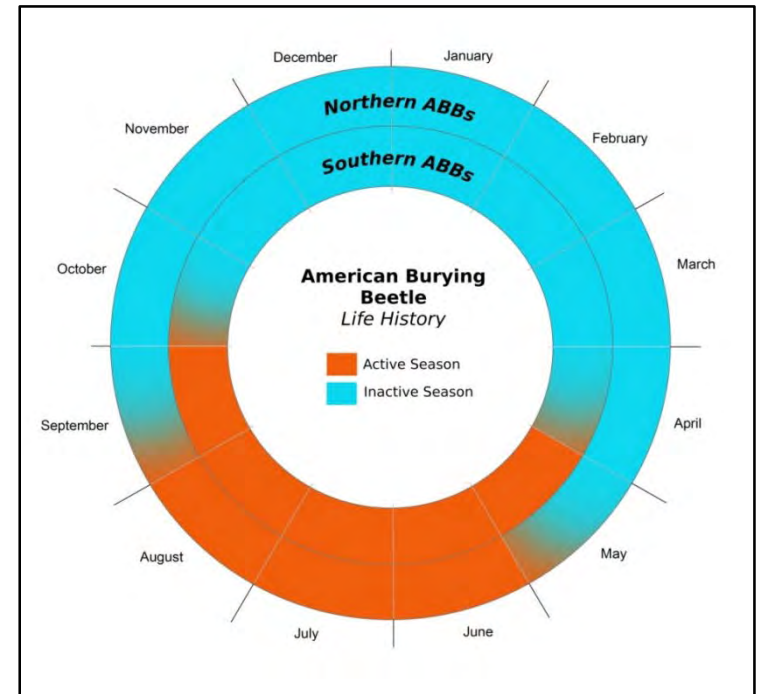
Species Status Assessment (SSA)

Background and Process

- Five Region FWS team began June, 2015.
- Delist petition filed August, 2015. Positive 90-day finding published March, 2016.
- SSA review – FWS team, eight peer reviewers, multiple State and Tribal partners. No substantial changes to SSA science.
- Recommendation meeting held June, 2017.
- Suit filed by American Stewards of Liberty/Independent Petroleum Association of America/Osage Oil and Gas, September, 2017 concerning delayed 12-month finding.
- Five Regional Directors' recommendation concurrence on December 8, 2017.

ABB Life History

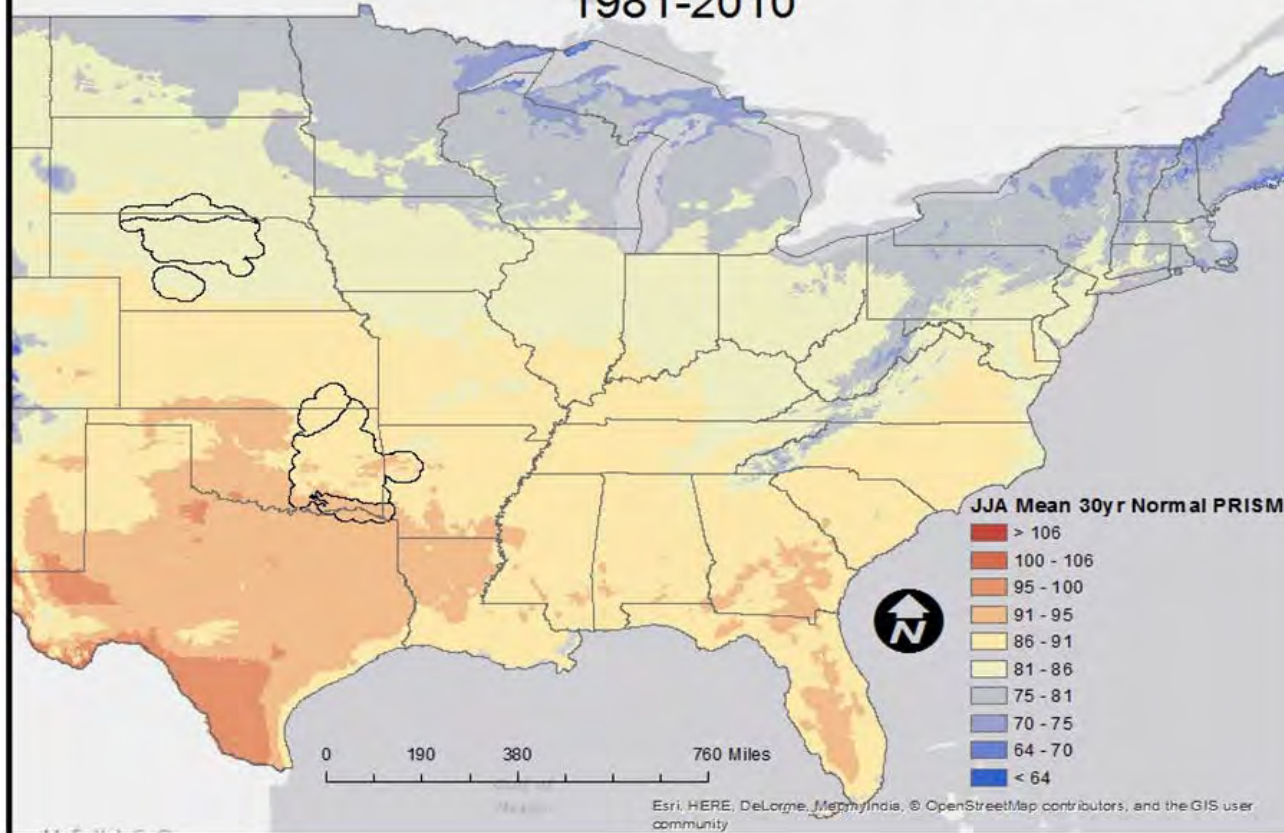
- ABBs overwinter underground. Nocturnal adults emerge in the spring.
- ABBs find a suitable carcass and mate, then bury the carcass overnight. The carcass must support the larvae for at least two weeks.
- Young adults emerge in 30-60 days, feed through the summer.
- Young adults go dormant in the fall and overwinter underground.
- Adults live up to 12-16 months.



Temperature and the ABB

1. The *Nicrophorus* genus is more common in cooler northern climates and is not well adapted to warmer climates.
2. Surrogate species study (most similar to ABB) suggests reproduction is affected at higher temperatures.
3. No existing or historical ABB populations in areas where long term (30 years) summer mean-maximum air temperatures are at or above 95° F.
4. Survey capture rates decline when summer mean maximum air temperatures are above 93° F.
5. Southern ABB populations near the current 95° F threshold appear to be declining.

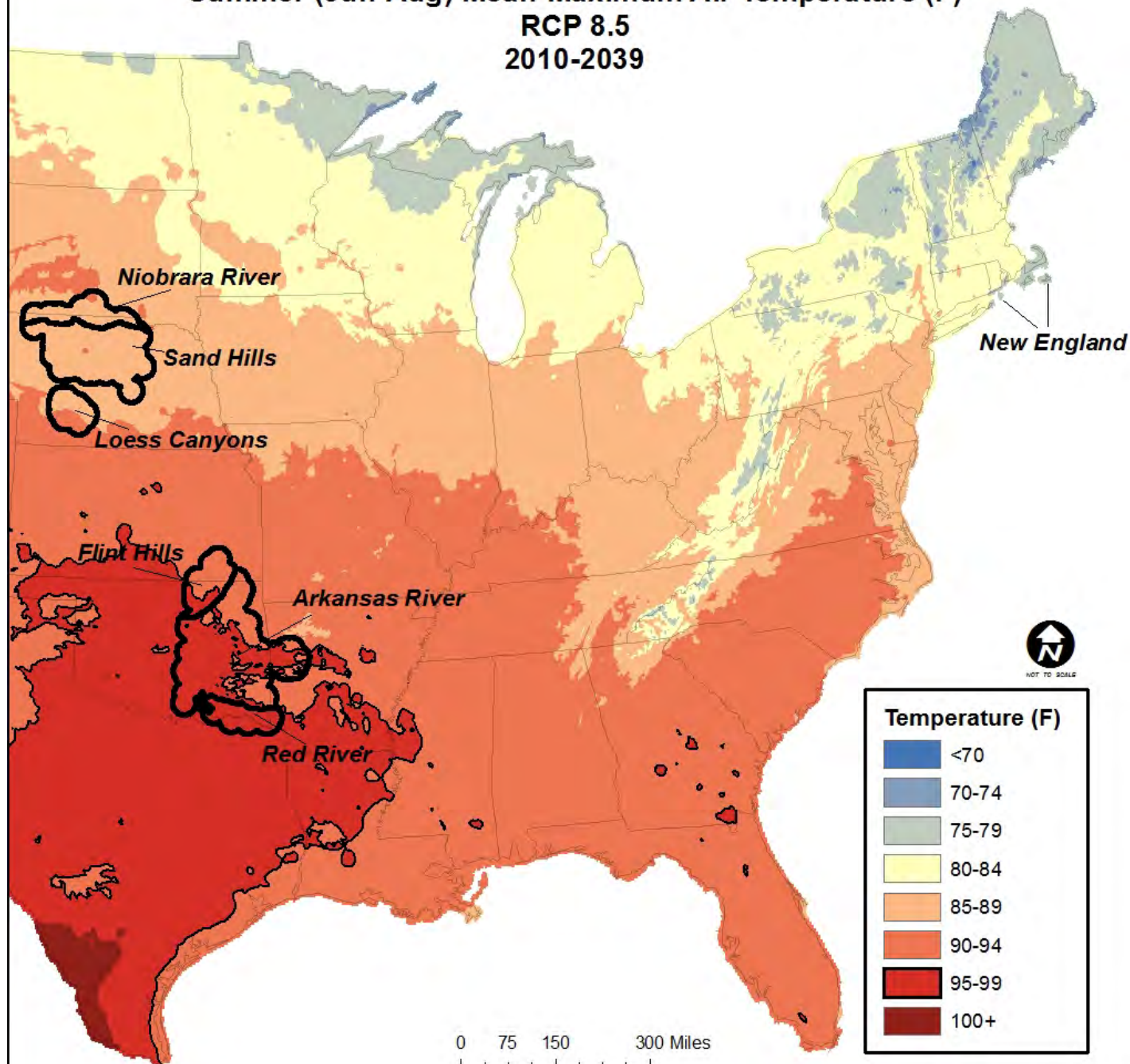
Summer (Jun-Jul-Aug) Maximum Air Temperature (F)
Historical Reference for Projections (PRISM)
1981-2010



Summer (Jun-Aug) Mean-Maximum Air Temperature (F)

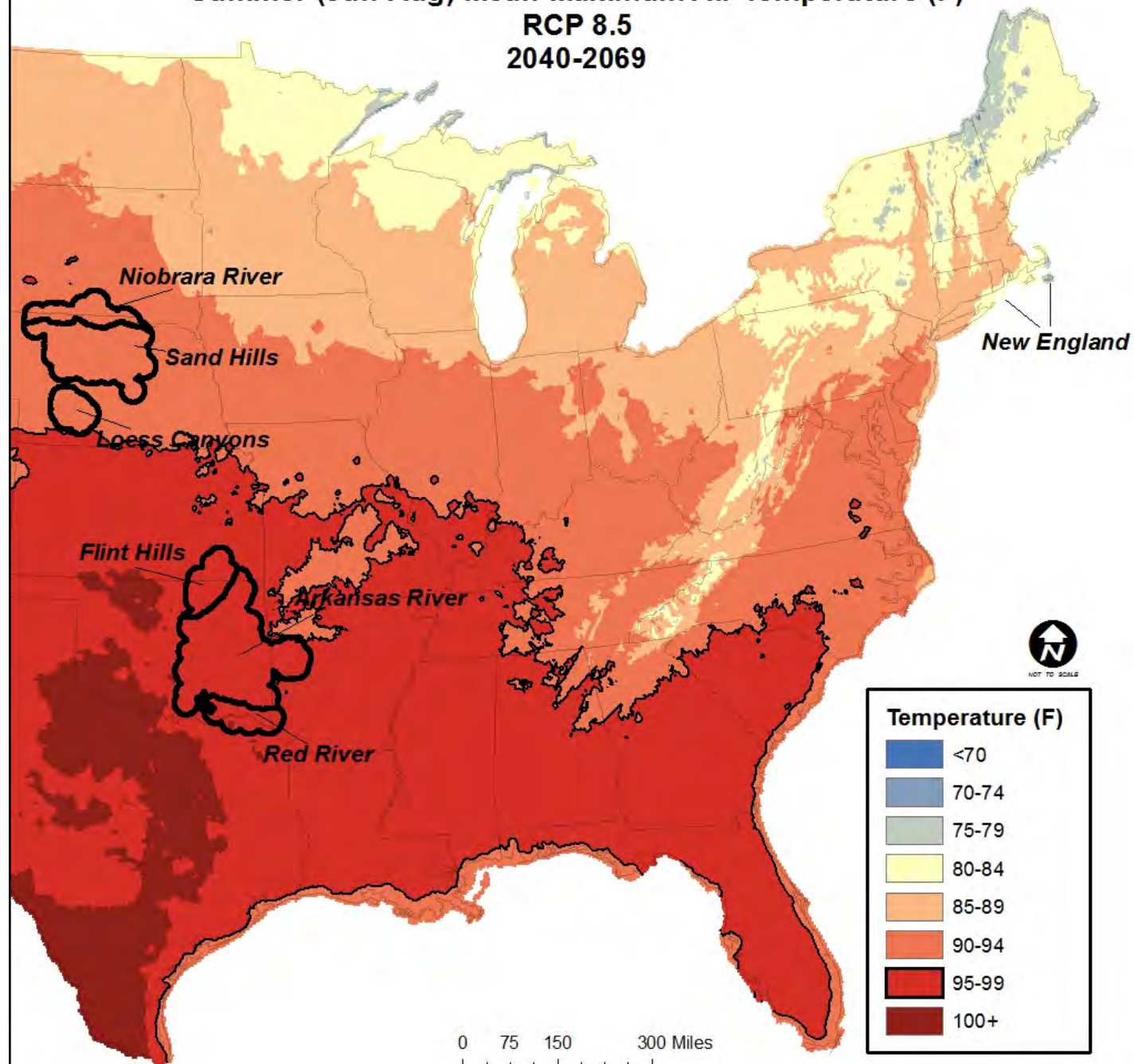
RCP 8.5

2010-2039



Summer (Jun-Aug) Mean-Maximum Air Temperature (F)

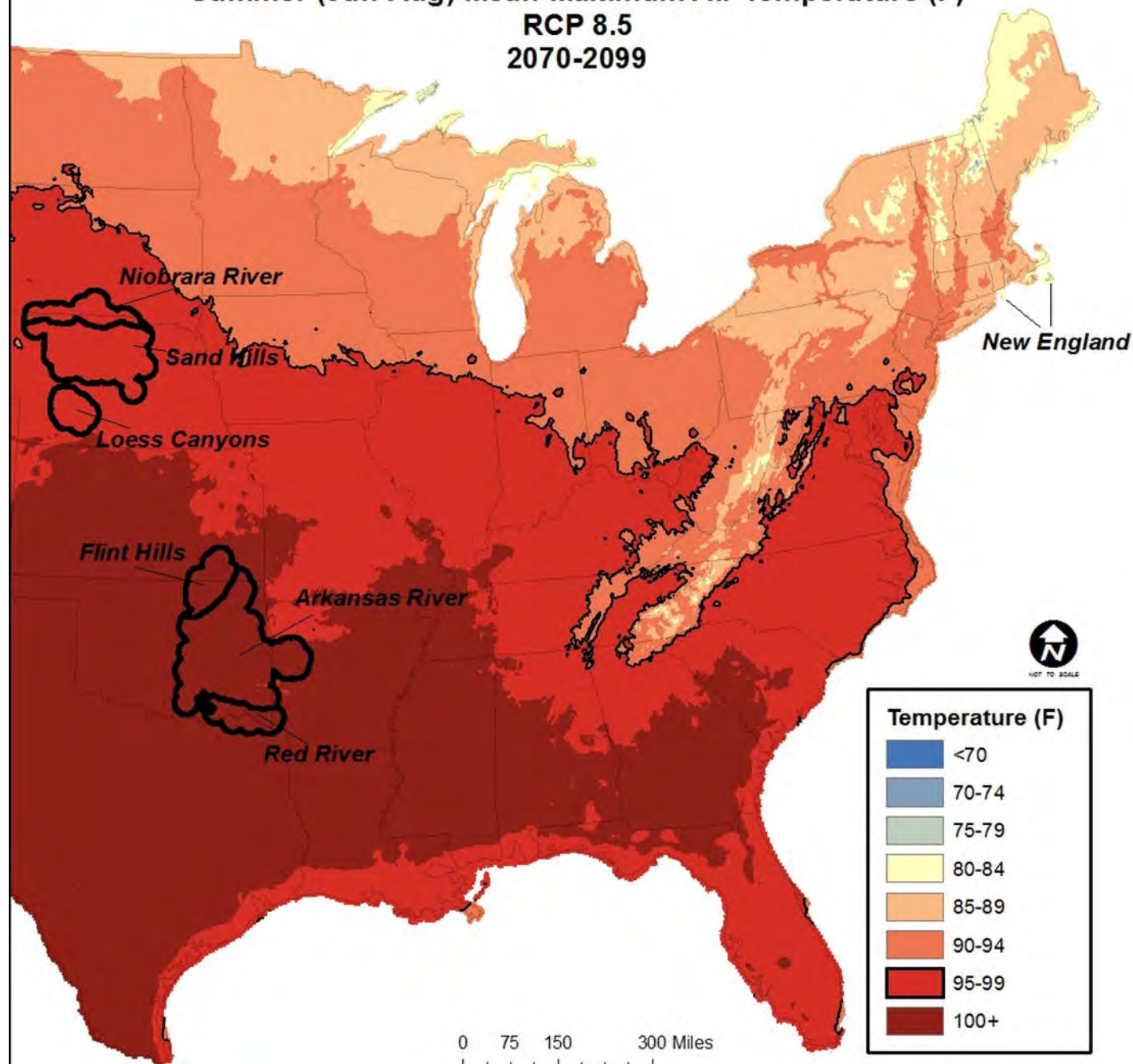
RCP 8.5
2040-2069



Summer (Jun-Aug) Mean-Maximum Air Temperature (F)

RCP 8.5

2070-2099



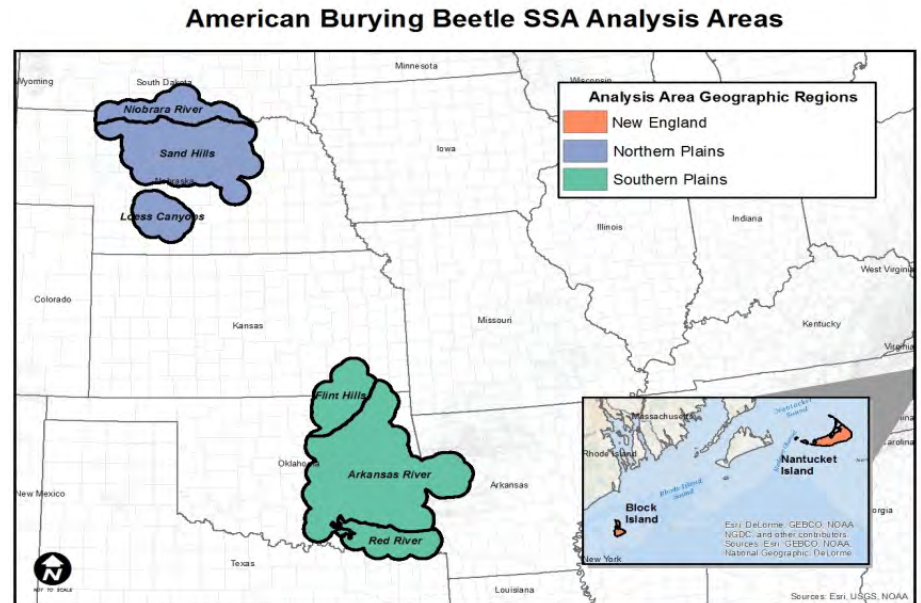
Recommended Direction

- 12-month not-warranted finding on an August 21, 2015, petition to remove the American burying beetle from the List (that is, to “delist” this species)
- Determination that the American burying beetle no longer meets the definition of endangered under the Act
- Proposed rule to reclassify the American burying beetle from endangered to threatened on the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife
- Proposed 4(d) rule that outlines the prohibitions necessary and advisable for the conservation of the American burying beetle.

Proposed 4 (d) Rule

Considerations and Recommendations

- Risks to ABB populations vary by region
 - e.g. urban expansion is minor risk for populations in Nebraska and South Dakota, but a substantial risk for the small Block Island population.
- Different provisions for each analysis area



New England Analysis Area Conservation:

- Continue incidental take prohibitions related to soil disturbance (e.g., housing developments, construction, etc.) on 2 islands.
- Suitable habitat is limited (only about 2,000 acres), and protecting habitat is necessary for the conservation of this population.

Proposed 4 (d) Rule

Considerations and Recommendations

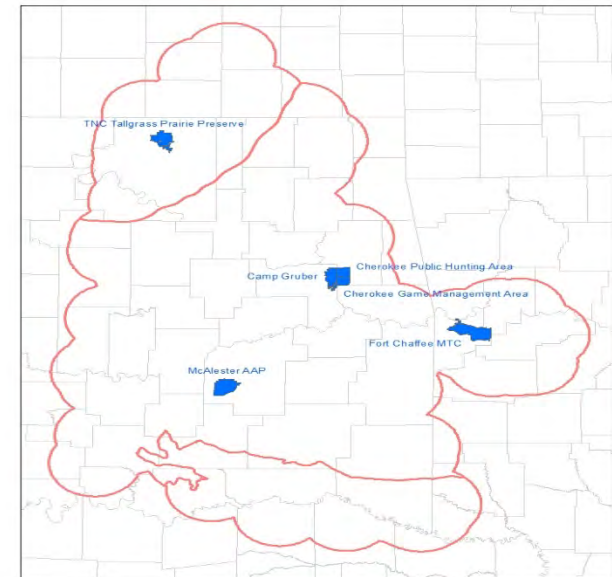
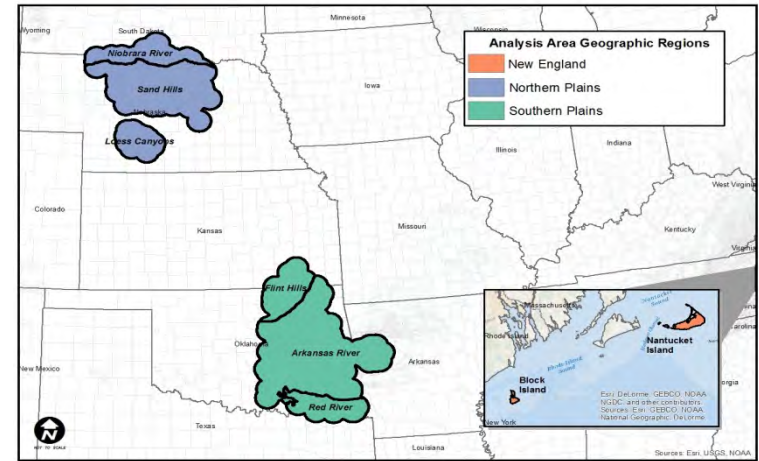
Northern Plains Analysis Area Conservation:

- Continue incidental take prohibitions related to soil disturbance (e.g., road construction, wind energy development).
- Provide regulatory relief with exemptions for grazing and wildlife management (e.g., prescribed fire, invasive species control) .

Southern Analysis Area Conservation:

- Provide regulatory relief for all incidental take outside conservation areas (See conservation areas in blue)
- Protect conservation areas with management plans and partnerships:
 - Lands managed by Department of Defense and The Nature Conservancy
 - Incidental take authorized if in compliance with FWS-approved management plans (e.g. integrated natural resources management plan).

American Burying Beetle SSA Analysis Areas



Partners and Stakeholders

States

- States participated on the SSA team, and close communication with state partners has continued.
- Nebraska and Texas were generally supportive.
- Rhode Island, Nebraska, Missouri and Oklahoma expressed concerns about land use effects on ABBs and carrion.
- Oklahoma stressed that climate change should not be given disproportionate consideration. Texas supported the climate related assessments in the ABB SSA Report.

Tribes

- We have reached out to tribes and they are supportive of the ABB SSA Report.

Department of Defense

- Ongoing conservation efforts and management for ABB on DoD lands.

The Nature Conservancy

- Ongoing conservation efforts and management for ABB on TNC lands.

Zoos (St. Louis and Cincinnati)

- Ongoing conservation efforts and captive breeding programs for reintroduction efforts

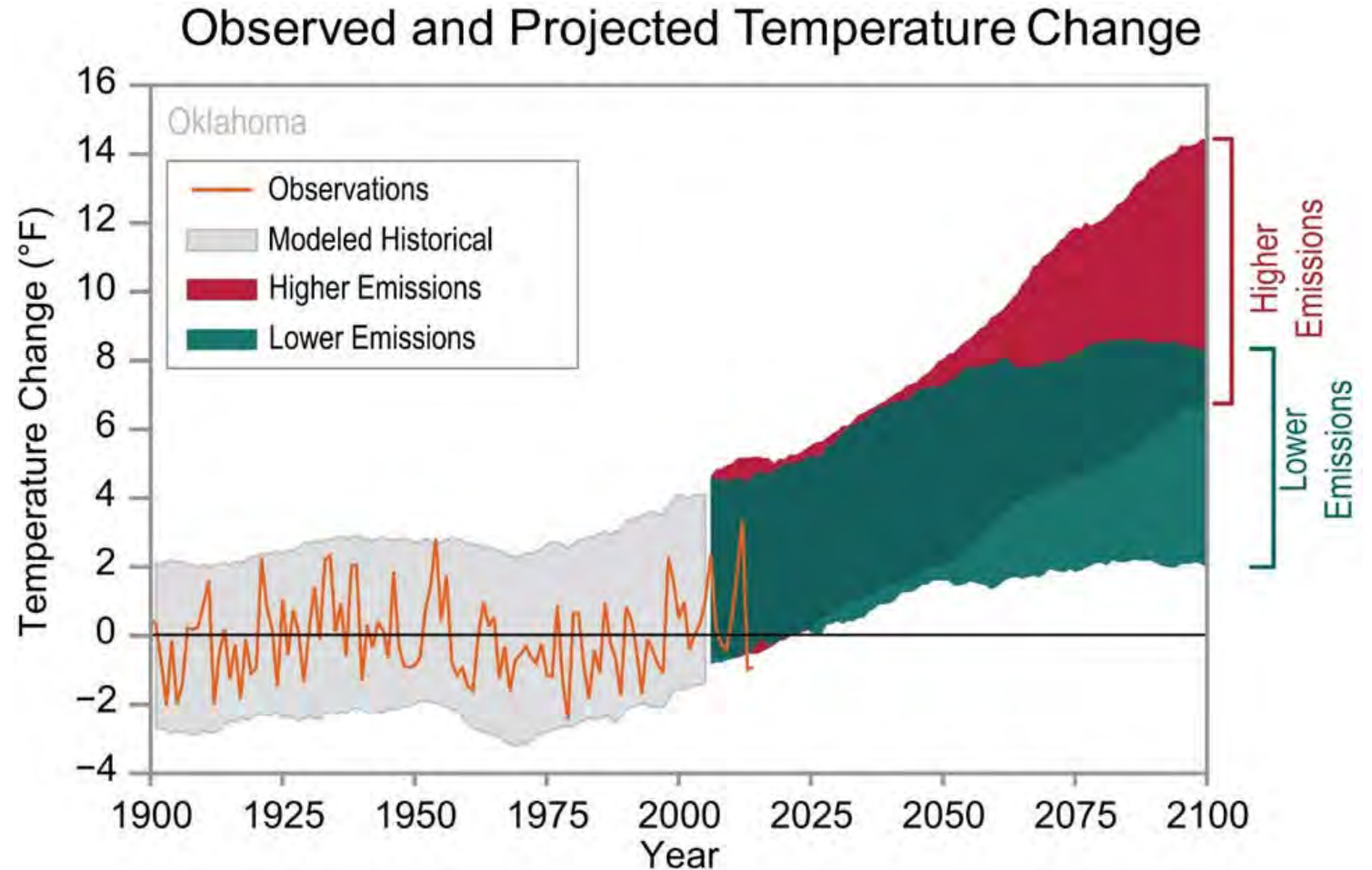
Next Steps

- Suit filed by American Stewards of Liberty/Independent Petroleum Association of America/Osage Oil and Gas, September, 2017 concerning delayed 12-month finding.
- Settlement memo proposed 12-month finding in June 2018.
- Federal Register Notice will seek further information and input in the form of questions in a proposed rule.
- Address public comments and publish final rule in June 2019.



Oklahoma Climate

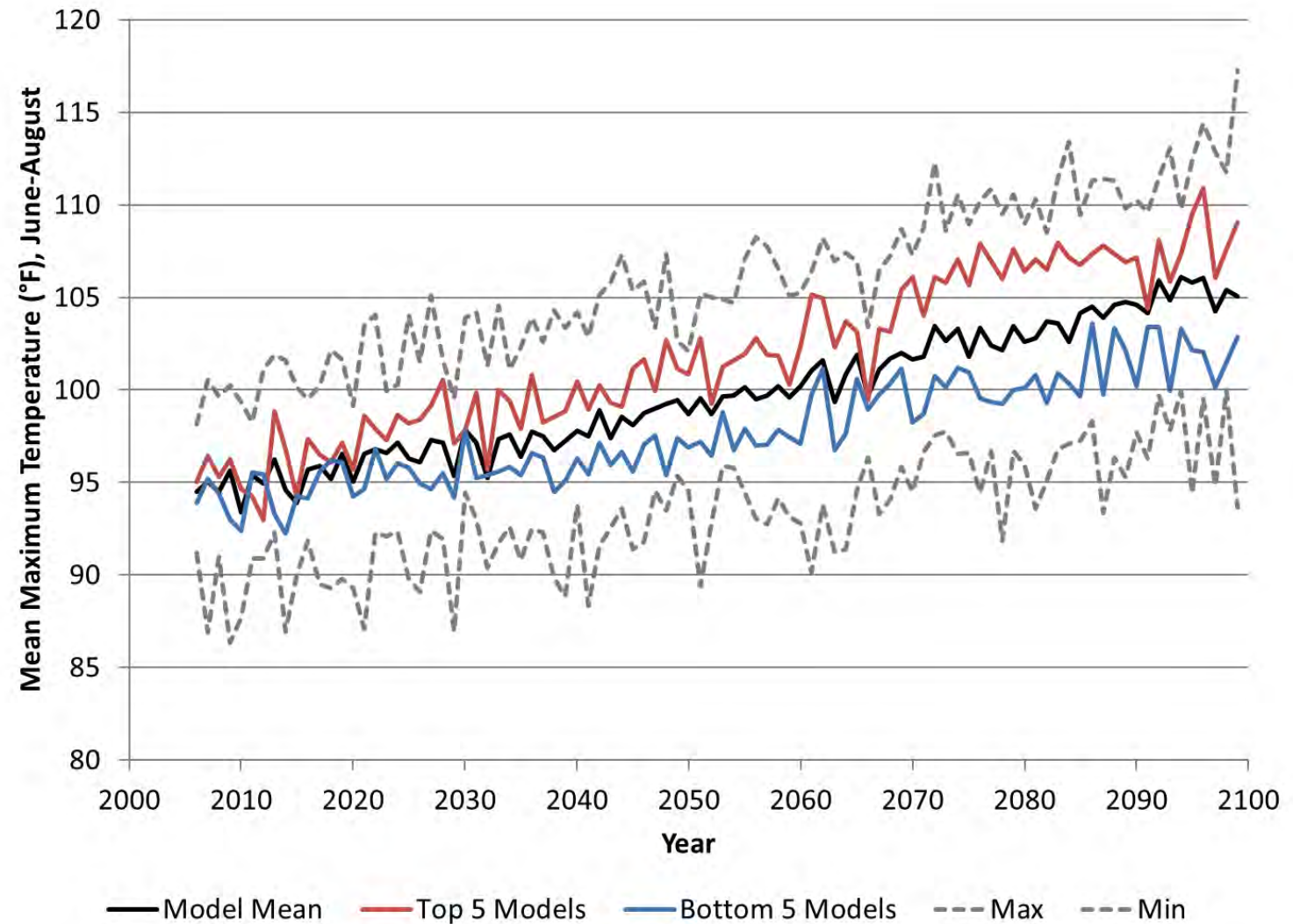
- This figure illustrates the consistency between observed and modeled temperatures in the last 100 years.
- The high and low emissions models show projected increases in temperatures and overlap almost entirely through 2050.
- The methods used to model the future trends were applied to the historical data and the orange line is observed temperature change and the grey envelope encompasses the model projections.



Observed and projected changes (compared to the 1901–1960 average) in near-surface air temperature for Oklahoma. Observed data are for 1900–2014. Projected changes for 2006–2100 are from global climate models for two possible futures: one in which greenhouse gas emissions continue to increase (higher emissions; RCP 8.5) and another in which greenhouse gas emissions increase at a slower rate (lower emissions; RCP 4.5). Temperatures are projected to increase slowly at first, but rapidly increase over the next 30 years under both emission scenarios.

Hugo, OK Projections

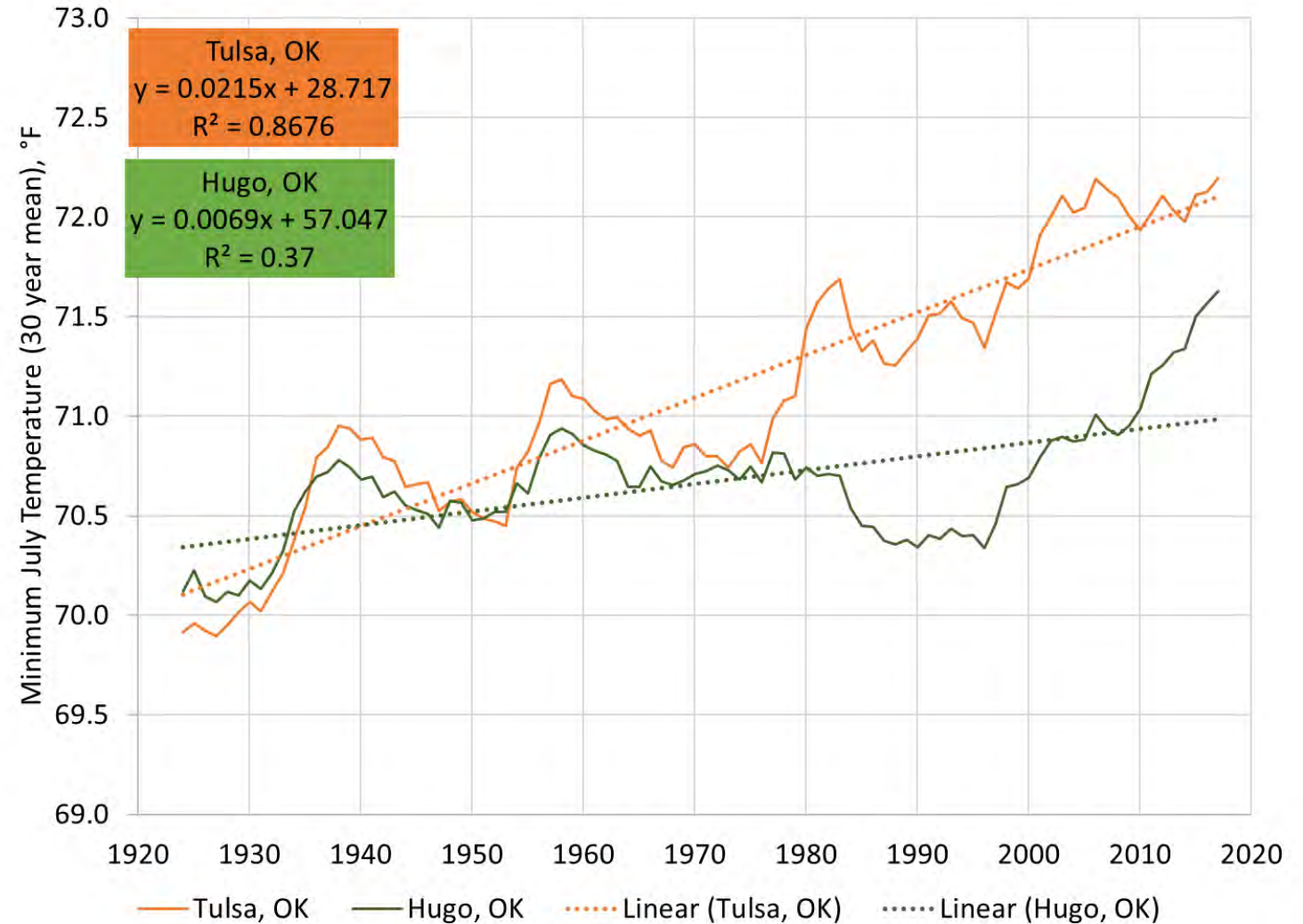
- Near term projections are for modest temperature increases, but the rate of increase accelerates after 2030.
- The projected temperature increases by mid-century and beyond represent climate conditions that are well above any known ABB tolerances.
- Temperatures projected beyond mid-century exceed the tolerances of any species in the genus *Nicrophorus*.
- Data Source:
<https://climate.northwestknowledge.net/MACA/>



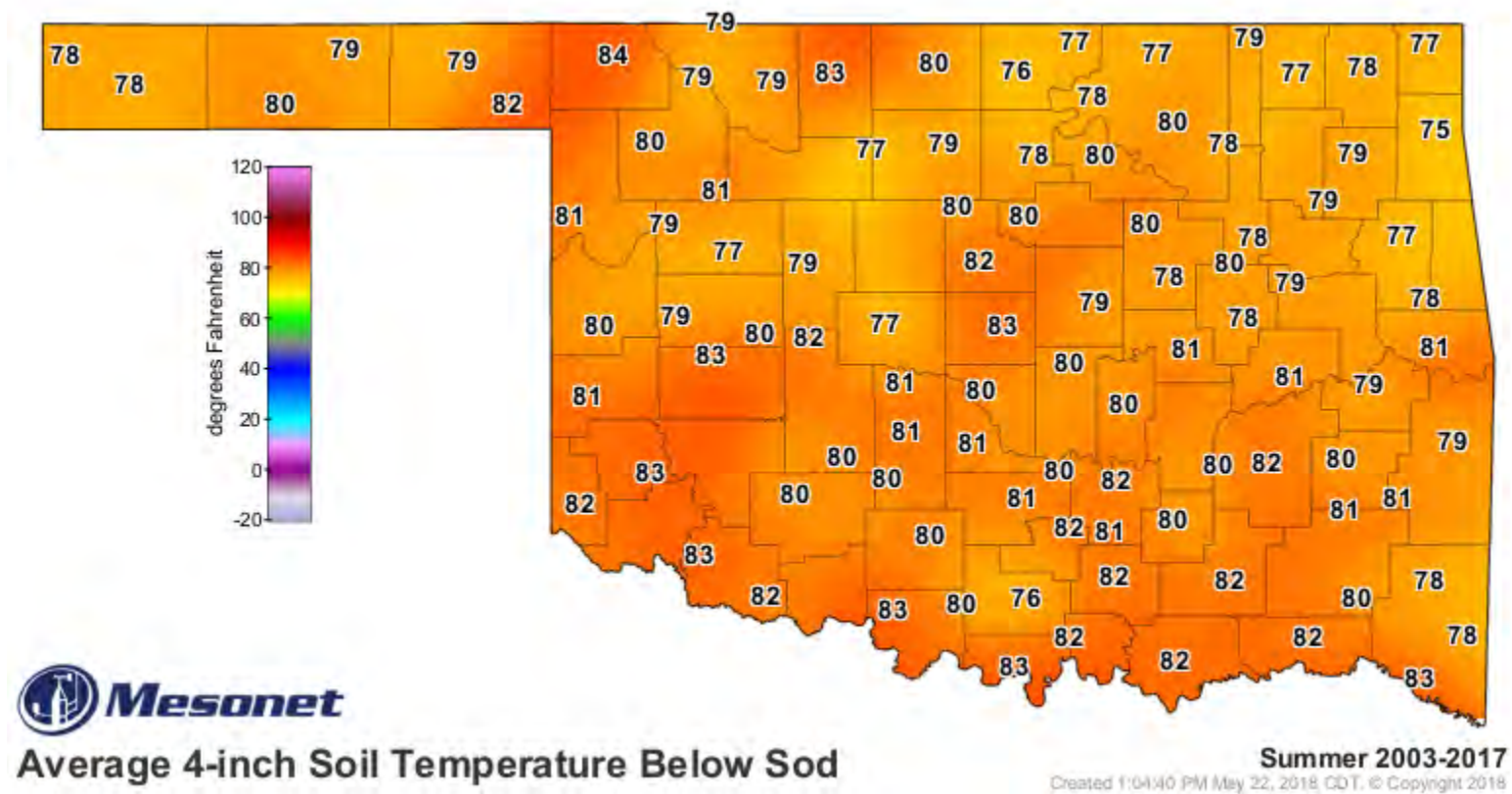
Projections (RCP 8.5) of summer maximum temperatures for Hugo, OK. Shown are the 20 model mean (black), 5 warmest (red) and 5 coolest (blue) models, and the range of model predictions (grey dashed).

July Nighttime Climate

- Nighttime temperatures have been steadily and significantly increasing for the last century.
- Nighttime (minimum) temperature changes are a precursor to daytime (maximum) temperature changes.
- The observed temperatures are beginning to exceed thresholds found to impair reproduction in laboratory studies with a surrogate *Nicrophorus* species.
- The ABB is only active at night and they bury into the soil during the day.
- Data source:
<http://prism.oregonstate.edu/>



Average unshaded summer soil temperatures in southern portions of Oklahoma already exceed temperatures that prohibit reproductive success (~80 degrees F) in a surrogate species *N. orbicollis* in the lab. Increasing day and nighttime temperatures will increase soil temperatures and limit portions of the year with suitable conditions for ABB reproduction.



Conversation Contents

Re: American Burying Beetle followup

Susan Combs <susan_combs@ios.doi.gov>

From: Susan Combs <susan_combs@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed May 23 2018 17:22:55 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Fahey, Bridget" <bridget_fahey@fws.gov>
"Frazer, Gary" <gary_frazer@fws.gov>, Greg Sheehan
CC: <greg_j_sheehan@fws.gov>, Aurelia Skipwith
<aurelia_skipwith@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: American Burying Beetle followup

Ok. Many thanks. I will send on. Sent from my iPhone > On May 23, 2018, at 5:24 PM, Fahey, Bridget <bridget_fahey@fws.gov> wrote: > > Thanks for the discussion today. I'm following up with electronic copies of > the powerpoint slides we used today to brief on ABB. Additionally, as you > reach out to the new director of USGS, here is some information on the > coordination done with USGS out in the field/region: > > Staff from the Oklahoma Ecological Services Field Office initiated > collaboration with the South Central Climate Science Center in August > 2016. Dr. Esther Mullens (405-325-1272) under the supervision of center > director Michael Langston (405-290-8348; mlangston@usgs.gov), was the > primary scientist consulted at the Center. Dr. Mullens provided guidance on > publicly available, peer-reviewed, downscaled climate projections relevant > to the species status assessment and assisted developing analyses and > determining appropriate uses and interpretations of the climate > projections. She also peer reviewed the ABB SSA. Additional USGS staff also > provided information, advice, and peer review; but Dr. Mullens was our > primary contact on climate analysis. > > Hope this helps. Let Greg, Gary or I know if you need anything else. > *Bridget Fahey* > *Division Chief for Conservation and Classification* > *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service* > *(703) 358-2163* > >

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"Fahey, Bridget" <bridget_fahey@fws.gov>

From: "Fahey, Bridget" <bridget_fahey@fws.gov>
Sent: Wed May 23 2018 15:24:31 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Susan Combs <susan_combs@ios.doi.gov>
CC: "Frazer, Gary" <gary_frazer@fws.gov>, Greg Sheehan <greg_j_sheehan@fws.gov>, Aurelia Skipwith <aurelia_skipwith@ios.doi.gov>
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Division Chief for Conservation and Classification
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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Speaking Calendar: Week of 5/21

Attachments:

/47. Speaking Calendar: Week of 5/21/1.1 Speaking Calendar.xlsx
/47. Speaking Calendar: Week of 5/21/1.2 Speaking Engagement Form.docx

"Nachmany, Eli" <eli_nachmany@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Nachmany, Eli" <eli_nachmany@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue May 22 2018 15:52:42 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>
CC: "Newell, Russell" <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>
BCC: susan_combs@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Speaking Calendar: Week of 5/21
Attachments: Speaking Calendar.xlsx Speaking Engagement Form.docx

Team,

Attached, please find the latest version of the speaking calendar, updated for the week of 5/21.

The Speaking Engagement Form is attached on here as well; if an upcoming speaking engagement of yours is not on the calendar, please have an assistant in your hallway fill out the form and send it to Russ Newell and me, with Laura Rigas CC'd.

--

Sincerely,

Eli Nachmany
Speechwriter, Office of Communications
U.S. Department of the Interior
(202) 706-9285

Date	Speaker	Title	Bureau/Agency	Event/Organization	Topic (if applicable)
5/22	Vincent DeVito	Counselor for Energy Policy	Office of the Secretary	Energy Exposition 2018, Organized by Kit Jennings	
5/22	Greg Sheehan	Principal Deputy Director	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	National Hunter and Angler Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation (R3) Summit	
5/23	John Tahsuda	Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary	Indian Affairs	Tribal/Interior Budget Council	
5/23	Todd Wynn	Director	Intergovernmental and External Affairs	Americans For Tax Reform, Coalition Leaders Summit	
5/25	Tim Williams	Deputy Director	Intergovernmental and External Affairs	NACO WIR	
5/30	Vincent DeVito	Counselor for Energy Policy	Office of the Secretary	2018 Energy Forums by Kansas Chamber of Commerce	The Future of U.S. Energy Policy
5/31	John Tahsuda	Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary	Indian Affairs	United Tribes of Michigan meeting	
6/3	John Tahsuda	Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary	Indian Affairs	Listening Sessions during National Congress of American Indians	Joint session with Department of Education
6/6	Walter Cruickshank	Acting Director	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management	Offshore Operators Committee General Meeting	
6/7	Walter Cruickshank	Acting Director	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management	3rd Annual US Offshore Wind Conference	
6/7	Joe Balash	Assistant Secretary	Land and Minerals Management	Wyoming Mining Association	
6/18-6/20	Scott Cameron	Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary	Policy, Management and Budget	Interior Business Center building reopening with the GSA Administrator at the Denver Federal Center; PDAS Scott Cameron will also complete a listening session with employees on the PMB workplace harrassment action plan; and in Wyoming visit with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), US Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Department of Defense (DOD), and Wyoming state and private partners on cooperative rangeland management of invasive weeds.	

Location	OCO Remarks?	Press	Audience	Point of Contact
Loveland, CO		Not expected		
Lincoln, NE		Open		
Washington, DC		?	Federal and Tribal Members	
Anchorage, AK		Closed	Conservative think tanks and grassroots group leaders from around the country	
Sun Valley, ID		Closed	County Commissioners	
Wichita & Garden City, KS		?	Kansas Chamber of Commerce	
Petoskey, MI		?	Tribal	
Kansas City, MO		?	Tribal	
Austin, TX		Closed	Oil and gas industry	
Boston, MA		Open	Industry, academia, government	
Jackson, WY		Open	Mining industry leaders from WY	
Denver, CO		Closed	Federal	

Date	Speaker	Title	Bureau/Agency	Event/Organization	Topic (if applicable)	Location
10/16	Todd Willens	Asst. Deputy Secretary	Office of the Deputy Secretary	American Recreation Coalition luncheon	Outdoor recreation	Washington, D.C.
10/16	John Tahsuda	PDAS	Indian Affairs	National Congress of American Indians	Upholding trust	Milwaukee, WI
10/17	Tim Williams	Deputy Director	Office of Intergovernment and External Affairs	Independent Petroleum Association of America Regulators' Forum	responsibilities	
10/17	Casey Hammond	DAS	Land and Minerals Management	Independent Petroleum Association of America Regulators' Forum	Secretary's Top 10 priorities	Washington, D.C.
10/17	Aurelia Skipwith	DAS	Fish, Wildlife & Parks	Independent Petroleum Association of America Regulators' Forum	Bureau of Land Management issues	Washington, D.C.
10/17	Kate MacGregor	Acting Asst. Secretary	Land and Minerals Management	National Mining Association	Conservation	Washington, D.C.
10/17	Austin Ewell	DAS	Water and Science	Folsom Dam auxiliary spillway completion ceremony	Secretary's priorities for hardrock mining and coal	Washington, D.C.
10/19	David Bernhardt	Deputy Secretary	Office of the Deputy Secretary	National Congress of American Indians		Folsom, CA
10/19	John Tahsuda	PDAS	Indian Affairs	Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council	Sovereignty	Milwaukee, WI
10/20	Daniel Jorjani	Principal Deputy Solicitor	Office of the Solicitor	CA State Bar Environmental Law Conference at Yosemite	Upholding trust responsibilities	Polson, MT
10/21	John Tahsuda	PDAS	Indian Affairs	Alaska Federation Natives & Consultation	Regulatory reform	Fish Camp, CA
10/24	Scott Angelle	Director	Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement	Louisiana Gulf Coast Oil Exhibition Keynote Luncheon	Upholding trust responsibilities and Licensed Indian Traders regulations consultation	Anchorage, AK
10/24	Todd Willens	Asst. Deputy Secretary	Office of the Deputy Secretary	NM Assn of Conservation Districts	Secure and reliable energy production from the Outer Continental Shelf	Lafayette, LA
10/26	John Tahsuda	PDAS	Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs/Bureau of Indian Affairs	DOI-Self Governance Advisory Quarterly Meeting	Public access, forest management, sage grouse	Taos, NM
10/27	Scott Angelle	Director	Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement	Louisiana Chemical Association	Reorganization	Washington, D.C.
10/31	Scott Cameron	PDAS	Policy, Management & Budget	ACT-IAC 2017 Executive Leadership Conference	Energy dominance	New Orleans, LA
11/1	John Tahsuda	PDAS	Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs/Bureau of Indian Affairs	Native American Heritage Month Opening Ceremony	Management efficiency and effectiveness	Williamsburg, VA
						Washington, D.C.

11/1 Greg Sheehan	Principal Deputy Director	US Fish and Wildlife Service	Organization of American States 2017		
11/2 Kate MacGregor	Acting Asst. Secretary	Land and Minerals Management	Conservation Champion Award	Award presentation	Washington, D.C.
11/3 John Tahsuda	PDAS	Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs/Bureau of Indian Affairs	Women in Energy Infrastructure		Washington, D.C.
11/7 John Tahsuda	PDAS	Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs/Bureau of Indian Affairs	Federal Bar Association Indian Law Conference - DC	Land into trust, tribal courts	Washington, D.C.
11/8 Scott Angelle	Director	Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement	NACA 2017-Federal Contracting Policy & Advocacy Conference	Economic development for Native communities	Washington, D.C.
11/8 John Tahsuda	PDAS	Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs/Bureau of Indian Affairs	Deepwater Operations Conference		Galveston, TX
11/8 Steve Wackowski	Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Alaska	Office of the Secretary	Tribal/Interior Budget Council		Washington, D.C.
11/9 Marshall Critchfield	Advisor	Fish, Wildlife, & Parks	Alaska Miners Association Convention	Federal policy regarding hard rock resources on federal land	Anchorage, AK
11/9 Vincent DeVito	Energy Policy Counselor	Office of the Secretary	Easton Waterfowl Festival Premiere Night	Introducing winner of the duck stamp competition	Easton, MD
11/9 Scott Angelle	Director	Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement	Heartland Institute America First Energy Conference	American Energy Dominance	Houston, TX
11/14 Andrea Travnicek	Acting Asst. Secretary	Water and Science	International Assn. of Drilling Contractors		Austin, TX
11/14 Kathy Benedetto	Senior Advisor	Bureau of Land Management	20th William T. Pecora Memorial Remote Sensing Symposium	Application of Earth Observing Data	Sioux Falls, SD
11/14 David Bernhardt	Deputy Secretary	Office of the Deputy Secretary	Idaho Cattle Association		Sun Valley, ID
11/16 Kate MacGregor	Acting Asst. Secretary	Land and Minerals Management	Western Caucus Luncheon	Western issues	Washington, DC
11/16 John Tahsuda	Acting Asst. Secretary	Indian Affairs	Grand Junction Petroleum and Mining Club Presentation		Grand Junction, CO
11/17 Vincent DeVito	Energy Policy Counselor	Office of the Secretary	"Mvskoke Etlwv: The Muscogee People"	Meet and greet	Washington, DC
11/21 Steve Wackowski	Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Alaska	Office of the Secretary	TBD: U.S. Chamber of Commerce, U.S. Gas Infrastructure Exports Initiative	U.S. LNG	Washington, DC
11/28 Scott Cameron	PDAS	Policy, Management & Budget	Commonwealth North Board of Directors meeting	DOI in Alaska	Anchorage, AK
11/28 John Tahsuda	Acting Asst. Secretary	Indian Affairs	Western Weed Coordinating Committee meeting	Invasive species management	Las Vegas, NV
11/29 Alan Mikkelsen	Deputy Commissioner	Bureau of Reclamation	2017 Bureau of Indian Affairs Alaska Providers Conference		Anchorage, AK
11/30 John Tahsuda	Acting Asst. Secretary	Indian Affairs	Oregon Water Resources Congress Annual Conference		Hood River, OR
			Second North American Trilateral Working Group on Violence against Indigenous Women and Girls		Ottawa, Canada

11/30 Aurelia Skipwith	Deputy Asst. Secretary	Fish, Wildlife, & Parks	Environmental Law & Policy Conference	Endangered Species Act	Washington, DC
11/30 Alan Mikkelsen	Deputy Commissioner	Bureau of Reclamation	Association of California Water Agencies Fall Conference & Exhibition	Panel discussion	Anaheim, CA
11/30 Austin Ewell	Deputy Asst. Secretary	Water and Science	Association of California Water Agencies Fall Conference & Exhibition	Panel discussion	Anaheim, CA
12/4 Kathy Benedetto	Senior Advisor	Bureau of Land Management	American Exploration and Mining Association	Reducing barriers to mineral exploration and development	Sparks/Reno, NV
12/5 John Tahsuda	Deputy Asst. Secretary	Indian Affairs	National Indian Gaming Association	Indian trader regulations	Washington, DC
12/6 Kate MacGregor	Acting Asst. Secretary	Land and Minerals Management	Offshore Operators Committee General Mtg	and proposed land acquisition regulations	New Orleans, LA
12/6 Vincent DeVito	Energy Policy Counselor	Office of the Secretary	Platts Energy Conference		New York, NY
12/6 Casey Hammond	Deputy Asst. Secretary	Land and Minerals Management	American Exploration and Mining Association	Sage-grouse, regulatory reform	Reno, NV
12/6 Steve Wackowski	Alaska Advisor	Office of the Secretary	Civil Applications Committee, NCAC Reston	Volcanoes and landslide analysis	Reston, VA
12/7 Tim Williams	Deputy Director	Office of External and Intergovernmental Affairs	State Policy Network		Washington, DC
12/7 Jason Funes	Special Assistant	Office of External and Intergovernmental Affairs	ALEC: States & Nations Policy Summit	Energy dominance	Nashville, TN
12/7 Steve Wackowski	Alaska Advisor	Office of the Secretary	American Exploration and Mining Association	Alaska's mining industry	Reno, NV
12/8 Casey Hammond	Deputy Asst. Secretary	Land and Minerals Management	Western Caucus Foundation: Winter Western Policy Roundtable	Federal regulatory and public policy issues related to natural resource issues and economic development in West	Washington, DC
12/8 Marshall Critchfield	Advisor	Fish, Wildlife, & Parks	Western Caucus Foundation: Winter Western Policy Roundtable	Federal regulatory and public policy issues related to natural resource issues and economic development in West	Washington, DC
12/11 Scott Angelle	Director	Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement	Bayou Industrial Group and South Central Industrial Association	Offshore energy	Gray, LA
12/12 Doug Domenech	Assistant Secretary	Insular Affairs	Island Government Finance Officers (IGFOA) Conference		Maui, HI

12/15 Brenda Burman	Deputy Commissioner	Bureau of Reclamation	Colorado River Water Users Association Annual Conference		Las Vegas, NV
1/5 David Bernhardt	Deputy Secretary	Office of the Deputy Secretary	Congressional Sports Foundation		Dallas, TX
1/6 David Bernhardt	Deputy Secretary	Office of the Deputy Secretary	Dallas Safari Club		Dallas, TX
			Heritage Foundation Overcriminalization Working Group	MBTA M-Opinion	Washington, DC
1/10 Gary Lawkowski	Counselor	Office of the Solicitor	Archery Trade Association		Indianapolis, IN
1/11 Rick May	Senior National Advisor	Office of the Secretary	Consultation Part 151 Regulations		Sacramento, CA
1/16 John Tahsuda	Acting Asst. Secretary	Indian Affairs			
1/17 Brenda Burman	Commissioner	Bureau of Reclamation	Mid Pacific Region Water Users Conference	CA water issues	Reno, NV
1/17 Gary Lawkowski	Counselor	Office of the Deputy Secretary	Federalist Society	Migratory Bird Treaty Act	Washington, DC
1/18 John Tahsuda	Acting Asst. Secretary	Indian Affairs	Consultation Part 151 Regulations		Prior Lake, MN
1/19 Greg Sheehan	Principal Deputy Director	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Wild Sheep Foundation Convention		Reno, NV
			Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program Panel		
1/19 Steve Wackowski	Senior Advisor for Alaska	Office of the Secretary	Texas Oil and Gas Assn. Legislative and Regulatory Planning Meeting	Federal regulation of oil and gas	Anchorage, AK
1/23 Scott Angelle	Director	Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement			New Orleans, LA
	Principal Deputy Asst. Secretary				
1/24 Jason Larrabee		Fish, Wildlife, & Parks	Ecological Restoration Business Association Meet and Greet with the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians	Infrastructure	Washington, DC
1/25 John Tahsuda	Acting Asst. Secretary	Indian Affairs	Consultation Part 151 Regulations		Portland, OR
1/25 John Tahsuda	Acting Asst. Secretary	Indian Affairs	Colorado Water Congress Annual Convention		Portland, OR
1/26 Alan Mikkelsen	Deputy Commissioner	Bureau of Reclamation			Denver, CO
				Sage-grouse, livestock grazing, wild horses and burros	
1/29 Casey Hammond	Deputy Asst. Secretary	Land and Minerals Management	Society for Range Management		Sparks, NV
				Secretary's position on tribal relations	
1/31 Steve Wackowski	Senior Advisor for Alaska	Office of the Secretary	DOI Alaska Native relations training		Anchorage, AK
2/1 Vincent DeVito	Counselor for Energy Policy	Office of the Secretary	2018 Power and Energy Ski Conference		Deer Valley, UT
			Federal Delegation Meeting - House Committee on Natural Resources		
2/2 James Cason	Associate Deputy Secretary	Office of the Deputy Secretary	Close Up Foundation (USET)	Panel with students	Salt Lake City, UT
2/5 John Tahsuda	Acting Asst. Secretary	Indian Affairs	United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF)		Washington, DC
2/6 John Tahsuda	Acting Asst. Secretary	Indian Affairs			Washington, DC
				Streamline and improve the listing and ruling process of at-risk species	
2/6 Greg Sheehan	Principal Deputy Director	Fish and Wildlife Service	Forest Landowners Association Board of Directors Meeting		Washington, DC

2/8 John Tahsuda	Acting Asst. Secretary	Indian Affairs	Western Indian Gaming Conference	Fee-to-trust under the Trump administration Interior priorities and accomplishments	Valley Center, CA
2/8 Doug Domenech	Assistant Secretary	Insular and International Affairs	Texas Public Policy Foundation Western Caucus Foundation House Staff Policy		Austin, TX
2/9 Todd Willens 2/12 John Tahsuda	Assistant Deputy Secretary Acting Asst. Secretary	Office of the Deputy Secretary Indian Affairs	Planning Retreat State of Indian Nations		Washington, DC Washington, DC
2/13 Dan Smith	Acting Director	National Park Service	FindYourWay on America's Rivers and Trails	Lasting legacy of the National Trails and Wild & Scenic Rivers Acts (50th year)	Washington, DC
2/13 Brian Steed	Deputy Director	Bureau of Land Management	FindYourWay on America's Rivers and Trails	Lasting legacy of the National Trails and Wild & Scenic Rivers Acts (50th year)	Washington, DC
2/13 Cally Younger 2/13 John Tahsuda	Counselor Acting Asst. Secretary	Bureau of Land Management Indian Affairs	FindYourWay on America's Rivers and Trails National Congress of American Indians 23rd Annual National Indian Women's	Protect the Great Lakes and Relationship to DOI Departmental Budget	Washington, DC Washington, DC
2/13 John Tahsuda	Acting Asst. Secretary	Indian Affairs	"Supporting Each Other Honoring Lunch"		Washington, DC
2/14 Scott Cameron	Principal Deputy Asst. Secretary	Policy, Management & Budget	Great Lakes Environmental Summit		Washington, DC
2/17 Aurelia Skipwith 2/19 Steve Wackowski	Deputy Asst. Secretary Senior Advisor for Alaska Principal Deputy Asst. Secretary	Fish, Wildlife, & Parks Office of the Secretary	Frederick Douglass Bicentennial Birthday Celebration Meet Alaska Conference and Tradeshow		Washington, DC Anchorage, AK
2/20 John Tahsuda	Principal Deputy Asst. Secretary	Indian Affairs	Consultation Part 151 Regulations Native American Child Safety Act (NACSA)		Phoenix, AZ
2/21 John Tahsuda	Secretary	Indian Affairs Intergovernmental and External Affairs	Guidelines		Albuquerque, NM
2/22 Jason Funes	Special Assistant Principal Deputy Asst. Secretary		FreedomWorks		Oxon Hill, MD
2/22 John Tahsuda	Secretary	Indian Affairs	Consultation Part 151 Regulations Family Farm Alliance Annual Meeting and		Miami, FL
2/22 Brenda Burman	Commissioner	Bureau of Reclamation	Conference	Western water issues	Reno, NV

2/22 Aurelia Skipwith	Deputy Asst. Secretary	Fish, Wildlife, & Parks	South Dakota Chamber of Commerce	Tourism through National Parks and National Wildlife Refuges	Pierre, SD
2/22 Marshall Critchfield	Advisor	Insular and International Affairs	Coral Reef Task Force		Washington, DC
2/28 Scott Cameron	Principal Deputy Asst. Secretary	Policy, Management & Budget	2018 Invasive Species Advisory Committee meeting	Implementation of ISAC recommendations	Washington, DC
3/1 Steve Wackowski	Advisor for Alaska	Office of the Secretary	Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference		Anchorage, AK
3/1 John Tahsuda	Principal Deputy Asst. Secretary	Indian Affairs	Indian Trust Asset Reform Act		Portland, OR
3/1 Scott Cameron	Principal Deputy Asst. Secretary	Policy, Management & Budget	2018 Invasive Species Advisory Committee meeting	Implementation of ISAC recommendations	Washington, DC
3/5 Scott Angelle	Director	Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement		Regulators roundtable: Oil and gas industry governance	
3/5 Tim Petty	Assistant Secretary	Water and Science	CERAWeek		Houston, TX
3/6 Aurelia Skipwith	Deputy Assistant Secretary	Fish, Wildlife & Parks	National Ground Water Association, Irrigation Association & Water Quality Association		Washington, DC
3/7 Scott Cameron	Principal Deputy Asst. Secretary	American Sheep Industry Association			Washington, DC
3/7 Todd Wynn	Director	Policy, Management & Budget	CXO Fellows Event (Chief Financial Officers Council)		Washington, DC
3/7 Todd Wynn	Director	Intergovernmental and External Affairs	American Coal Council	What's next for Interior	Clearwater Beach, FL
3/9 Brenda Burman	Commissioner	Bureau of Reclamation	Western Caucus Foundation		
3/9 Ryan Nichols	Advisor	Water and Science		Proctor Creek Urban Waters projects in the Atlanta area	Tempe, AZ
3/14 Joe Balash	Assistant Secretary	Land and Minerals Management	Proctor Creek Celebration of Success		Atlanta, GA
3/15 Tim Petty	Assistant Secretary	Water and Science	Faegre Baker Daniels Energy & Environment Symposium		Washington, DC
3/15 Scott Cameron	Principal Deputy Asst. Secretary	Policy, Management & Budget	Interstate Council on Water Policy		Arlington, VA
3/15 John Tahsuda	Acting Asst. Secretary	Indian Affairs		Cross Boundary Implications for Pre-Border Prevention and Post-Border Mitigation of Invasive Species	
3/18 Brenda Burman	Commissioner	Bureau of Reclamation	Western Governors Association Western Working Lands		Denver, CO
3/26 Rick May	Senior National Adviser for Recreation	Office of the Secretary	Consultation Part 151 Regulations		Mashantucket, CT
			World Water Forum Brasilia		Brazil
			American Sportfishing Association	Recreation and fishing	Crystal City, VA

3/28 Joe Balash	Assistant Secretary	Land and Minerals Management	Scotia Howard Weil 47th Annual Energy Conference		New Orleans, LA
3/28 Scott Cameron	Principal Deputy Asst. Secretary	Policy, Management & Budget	North American Wildlife and Resources Conference	Initiatives with invasive species	Norfolk, VA
3/28 John Tahsuda	Principal Deputy Asst. Secretary	Indian Affairs	Quarterly Self-Governance Consultation, Sharee Freeman		Washington, DC
3/29 Greg Sheehan	Principal Deputy Director	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference		Norfolk, VA
4/3 Walter Cruickshank	Acting Director	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management	Offshore Wind Finance Meeting		New York, NY
4/4 Walter Cruickshank	Acting Director	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management	International Offshore Wind Partnering Forum		Princeton, NJ
4/4 Vincent DeVito	Counselor for Energy Policy	Office of the Secretary	Bakken Federal Executives Group	DOI energy policy Promotion of sport fishing and boating to increase participation	N/A (Conference Call)
4/5 Greg Sheehan	Principal Deputy Director	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council		Washington, DC
4/5 Tim Williams	Deputy Director	Intergovernmental and External Affairs	Center for Growth and Opportunity		Las Vegas, NV
4/6 John Tahsuda	Principal Deputy Asst. Secretary	Indian Affairs	Federal Bar Association's 43rd Annual Indian Law Conference	Public land management Indian Child Welfare Act Panel	Scottsdale, AZ
4/9 Brenda Burman	Commissioner	Bureau of Reclamation	National Water Resources Association		Washington, DC
4/9 TBD	TBD	TBD	National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) Legislative Summit		Washington, DC
4/10 Jason Funes	Special Assistant	Intergovernmental and External Affairs	"Tuesday Morning Group" - Virginia Institute for Public Policy	Interior energy portfolio Federal Offshore Oil & Gas Leasing & Development	Richmond, VA
4/10 Walter Cruickshank	Acting Director	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management	Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation		New Orleans, LA
4/10 Greg Sheehan	Principal Deputy Director	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management		Sheperdstown, WV
4/12 Alan Mikkelsen	Senior Advisor	Bureau of Reclamation	Klamath Water Users Association Annual Meeting		Klamath Falls, OR
4/12 John Tahsuda	Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary	Indian Affairs	Consultation Part 151 Regulations		Mashantucket, CT
4/13 Scott Angelle	Director	Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement	2018 National Ocean Industries Association		Washington, DC
4/13 Walter Cruickshank	Acting Director	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management	2018 National Ocean Industries Association		Washington, DC
4/13 Kate MacGregor	Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary	Land and Minerals Management	National Ocean Industries Association (NOIA)		Washington, DC

4/16 Ben Cassidy	Senior Deputy Director	Intergovernmental and External Affairs	American Council of Snowmobile Associations	Motorized access Administration's energy policy strategy	Washington, DC
4/16 Vincent DeVito	Counselor for Energy Policy	Office of the Secretary	Northern California Power Agency Conference		Washington, DC
4/17 Doug Domenech	Assistant Secretary	Insular and International Affairs	Flag Day		American Samoa
4/17 Gray Payne	Deputy Commissioner	Bureau of Reclamation	National Association of Clean Water Agencies	Infrastructure	Washington, DC
4/17 James Cason	Associate Deputy Secretary	Office of the Deputy Secretary	Board of Directors		Phoenix, AZ
			BLM National Project Support Team Meeting		
4/18 Austin Ewell	Deputy Assistant Secretary	Water and Science	HayWired Rollout		Berkeley, CA
4/18 John Tahsuda	Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary	Indian Affairs	National Indian Gaming Association Annual Membership Meeting		Las Vegas, NV
4/19 Tucker Davis	Advisor	Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement	Virginia Coal and Energy Alliance's Annual Arbor Day Celebration		Vansant, VA
4/24 Susan Combs	Acting Assistant Secretary	Fish, Wildlife and Parks	Texas Association of Business	Reorganization	Washington, DC
4/24 Susan Combs	Acting Assistant Secretary	Fish, Wildlife and Parks	Texas Farm Bureau		Washington, DC
4/25 Doug Domenech	Assistant Secretary	Insular and International Affairs	Flag Day		American Samoa
4/25 John Tahsuda	Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary	Indian Affairs	2018 Annual Tribal Self-Governance Consultation Conference		Albuquerque, NM
4/26 John Tahsuda	Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary	Indian Affairs	Coalition of Large Tribes		Albuquerque, NM
4/27 Kathleen Benedetto	Senior Adviser	Bureau of Land Management	Good Samaritan Protection to Enhance Abandoned Mine Land Cleanup		Golden, CO (Colorado School of Mines)
4/30 Scott Angelle	Director	Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement	Offshore Technology Conference		Houston, TX
4/30 Walter Cruickshank	Acting Director	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management	Offshore Technology Conference		Houston, TX
4/30 John Tahsuda	Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary	Indian Affairs	Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes		Artesia, NM
4/30 Susan Combs	Senior Advisor	Office of the Secretary	Reorganization Listening Session		Lakewood, CO
5/1 Susan Combs	Senior Advisor	Office of the Secretary	Reorganization Listening Session		Albuquerque, NM
5/2 Susan Combs	Senior Advisor	Office of the Secretary	Reorganization Listening Session		Grand Junction, CO
5/3 Susan Combs	Senior Advisor	Office of the Secretary	Reorganization Listening Session		Cheyenne, WY

5/3 Scott Angelle	Director	Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement	Offshore Technology Conference	Houston, TX
5/3 Rick May	Senior National Adviser for Recreation	Office of the Secretary	RV Power Breakfast	Elkhart, IN
5/9 Kathleen Benedetto	Advisor	Bureau of Land Management	BLM's Nevada Solid Minerals Training Conference	Winnemucca, NV
5/9 David Bernhardt	Deputy Secretary	Office of the Deputy Secretary	Assn. of California Water Agencies	Sacramento, CA
5/9 John Tahsuda	Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary	Indian Affairs	Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association	Washington, DC
5/11 Cally Younger	Acting Deputy Solicitor for Land Resources	Office of the Solicitor	National Mitigation and Ecosystem Banking Conference	Louisville, KY
5/12 Steve Wackowski	Senior Advisor for Alaska	Office of the Secretary	Alaska Safari Club Annual Spring Meeting	Anchorage, AK
5/14 Brenda Burman	Commissioner	Bureau of Reclamation	Lake Nighthorse Opening	Lake Nighthorse, CO
5/16 Aurelia Skipwith	Deputy Assistant Secretary	Fish, Wildlife and Parks	15th Annual Stewardship Partnership Meeting - Southern Company and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	Biloxi, MS

OCO Remarks?	Press	Audience	Point of Contact
Yes - drafted	?		
	Open	General assembly/tribal leaders	Brian Clodoosby, (202) 466-7767
	Closed		
	Closed		
	Closed		
	Closed	Members of the Nat'l Mining Association	
	Open Open	General assembly/tribal leaders	Brian Clodoosby, (202) 466-7767
	Open	MT tribal leaders	Sonja Twoleggins (406) 252-2550
Yes - drafted	?	Environmental lawyers	
	Open	AK tribal leaders	Alaska Federation Nation (907) 274-3611
	Open	Oil and gas industry	
Yes - drafted	?		
	?	Tribal	
	Closed	Chemical plant managers from LA Federal and state government/private government contractors	
	Open		
	?		

	Open ?	Energy industry, state and federal	
	?		
	?		
	Open		
	?		
Yes	Open unless objections	Mining industry	
	Open	Local residents	
Yes	?		
	Closed		
	Open ?	Scientists, engineers, students Idaho ranchers	
Yes - drafted	Closed	Congressional members	
	Open ?	Oil and gas industry	
TBD Yes	TBD	TBD	
	Closed	Board of Directors, staff Federal and state government rangeland weeds experts	Slade Franklin, (307) 777-6585
	?		
	Open	OR water users	
	Closed	Representatives of Mexico, Canada, and US governments	

Reviewed	Closed		
	Open	CA public water agency leadership	
	Open	CA public water agency leadership	
	?	Mining industry	Pat Heywood, pheywood@miningamerica.com
	?	Various tribal leaders	
	Closed	Offshore industry and oil and gas	
	?	Energy industry, federal and state officials.	
	Open		
	Closed		
	Closed	Leaders of the State Policy Network	
	Closed	State representatives and stakeholders	
	Open	Mining industry	Pat Heywood, pheywood@miningamerica.com
	?		

?			
?			
Open	Members of the oil and gas community, local business leaders		
Closed			

Yes Yes	Open	Colorado River water users
	?	CSF/DSC members
	?	DSC members
Yes	Closed	
	Open	Retailers
	?	Tribal leaders
		Northern and Central CA water
	Open	issues
	?	Law students and Fed Soc
	?	members
	?	Tribal leaders
	?	
	Closed	
	One trade publication	Agency officials, mitigation bankers, investors, Congressional members/staff
	?	Tribal
	?	Tribal leaders
	Open	
	Closed	
	Closed	USFWS, BLM, NPS, BIA, USGS, and BSEE
	Open (limited)	
	Open (local)	Tribal
	?	Tribal
	Closed	FLA Board of Directors

	?	Tribal
Yes	?	
Yes	Closed ?	House Western Caucus Staff Tribal
	?	Interior and Agriculture employees
	?	Interior and Agriculture employees
	? Open	Interior and Agriculture employees Tribal leaders
	? Open	Tribal Federal officials, environmental NGOs, local governments, business groups Local community members, elected officials, others interested in the legacy of Frederick Douglass
	Open Open	Industry
	?	Tribal
	?	Tribal
Yes	Closed	FreedomWorks volunteers
	?	Tribal
	Open	Western water users

Yes	Closed	
	?	Members of the Coral Reef Task Force
	Open	Federal agency staff, governors, associations
	Open	Officials from the region
	?	Tribal leaders
Yes	Open	Federal agency staff, governors, associations
		International group of senior level energy industry executives and government regulators
	Closed	
	Closed	
	Closed	CXO Fellows
Yes	?	Industry
	?	Western Caucus Foundation members
	?	
	?	
	Closed	Agency officials
Yes	Open	Policy experts, managers
	?	Tribal leaders
	Open	Forum attendees
		Retailers/manufacturers in the fishing industry
	?	

Closed	
Open	Agencies, Committees, private sector
?	Tribal
Open	Agencies, Committees, private sector
Open	Offshore wind industry
Open	Industry, trade associations
?	
Closed	Council members
Closed	Academics and students
?	FedBar Organizations, Law
Open	Students
	NWRA members and water users
?	2,000 members of the organization
Closed	Statewide public policy groups and stakeholders
Closed	Lawyers, landmen, regulators
Open	Conservation agency officials from U.S., Mexico, and Canada
Open	Irrigated agriculture
?	Tribal
Closed	Trade association members
Closed	Trade association members
Closed	

	Closed	Snowmobile Assn. members
Yes	Closed	Public power officials
	?	?
	Closed	NACWA Board of Directors
	?	Team members
	Open	General public, state and local partners, other stakeholders
	?	Tribal
	Open	300 sixth grade students, federal and state agencies
Yes	?	Business, association, and civic leaders
	Closed	30 Texas Farm Bureau leaders
	?	
	?	Tribal
	?	Tribal
	?	Federal agencies, Congressional, state agencies, industry
		Engineers, technicians, executives, operators, scientists, and managers from all fields in the offshore energy sector
	Open	Industry, trade associations,
	Open	government, academia
	?	Law enforcement officers, tribal members
		Denver-based DOI SES
	Closed	employees
	Closed	Stakeholders/AG
	?	CLUB 20
	Closed	Cheyenne-area DOI employees

Open	Engineers, technicians, executives, operators, scientists, and managers from all fields in the offshore energy sector
Open	RV enthusiasts, outdoor industry
Closed	BLM employees
?	Elected board members, opinion leaders, general managers, legal counsel
?	Tribal Leaders of 16 Tribal Nations from South Dakota, North Dakota, and Nebraska.
Open	Ecosystem banking and related markets
Closed	Safari Club International Alaska
Open	Chapter members
	General public
Closed	

Conversation Contents

Congressional Affairs Update

Attachments:

/48. Congressional Affairs Update/1.1 5.18.18.docx

"Gustavson, Angela" <angela_gustavson@fws.gov>

From: "Gustavson, Angela" <angela_gustavson@fws.gov>
Sent: Fri May 18 2018 15:19:27 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Angela Gustavson <angela_gustavson@fws.gov>
BCC: susan_combs@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Congressional Affairs Update
Attachments: 5.18.18.docx

Good afternoon,

The Congressional Affairs Update for this week is attached.

- This week, the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee released their spending bill for the Department of the Interior for FY 2019. The subcommittee held a markup this week and the spending bill will be considered by the full committee next week.
- The House considered the Farm bill, but voted against final passage. Additional consideration is anticipated in the near future.
- Several hearings and markups of interest to the Service were held this week and are scheduled for next week.
- Next week, additional legislative activity is scheduled on the National Defense Authorization Act.

Have a good weekend,

Angela

Angela Gustavson
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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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Mobile: 202-909-5105
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CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS UPDATE

*Division of Congressional and Legislative Affairs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

May 18, 2018

2018 Congressional Recess Schedule

<i>Senate</i>	<i>Holidays & Special Days</i>	<i>House</i>
State Work Period May 28-June 1	Memorial Day May 28	District Work Period May 28-June 1
State Work Period July 2-July 6	Independence Day July 4	District Work Period July 2-July 6
State Work Period Aug. 6-Sep. 3	Labor Day Sep. 3	District Work Period July 30-Sep. 3
Sep. 10-Sep. 11	Rosh Hashanah	Sep. 10-Sep. 11
Sep. 19	Yom Kippur	District Work Period Sep. 17-Sep. 21
Oct. 8	Columbus Day	Oct. 8
State Work Period Oct. 29-Nov. 12	Veterans Day Nov. 12 (observed)	District Work Period Oct. 15-Nov. 9
State Work Period Nov. 19-Nov. 23	Thanksgiving Day Nov. 22	District Work Period Nov. 19-Nov. 23
	Targeted Adjournment Date Dec. 14	

UPDATES TO LEGISLATION OF INTEREST

House Committee Releases FY 2019 Interior Appropriations Legislation

On Monday, May 14, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies released the spending bill for the Department of the Interior for FY 2019. The bill would fund the Service at \$1.6 billion, an \$11 million decrease below the FY 2018 enacted level. The bill includes significant investments to reduce the deferred maintenance backlogs within the National Wildlife Refuge System and the National Fish Hatchery System and to ensure that all fish hatcheries continue to operate. Funding to recover and delist threatened and endangered species also increased from FY 2018 levels, including a \$2.5 million increase for Recovery Challenge matching grants to share the costs of recovery with corporate and other non-governmental partners. Bill language is included to delist gray wolves in the lower 48 states, including a provision specific to wolves in Wyoming and the western Great Lakes. The bill would also prohibit the listing of greater sage-grouse. Funding is also maintained from FY 2018 levels for fighting invasive species and illegal wildlife trafficking.

For full bill text, please visit:

House Fails to Pass Farm Bill

On Friday, May 18, the House of Representatives voted against final passage of H.R. 2, the Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018, aka the Farm Bill. The legislation failed by a vote of 198-213. It is expected that House and Agriculture Committee leadership will continue to seek enough support to pass the legislation in the near future.

Items of interest to the Service in H.R. 2 include a provision to expand the enrollment cap for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) from 24 million acres to 29 million acres; repeal of the majority of the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP); reauthorization of the Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Improvement Program (VPA-HIP) at \$50 million; amendments to consultation requirements under the ESA for certain forest management practices; and amendments to consultation requirements under the ESA for the registration of pesticides under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).

During debate on the House floor, four amendments of interest to the Service were passed, including:

- **H.Amdt. 623** -- Sponsored by **Rep. Liz Cheney (R-WY-AL)** -- Requires DOI and USDA to issue grazing permits on Federal public lands to ranchers who hold grazing permits on allotments during emergency situations, including natural disaster, court-issued injunction, or conflict with wildlife, that have made their existing allotments unusable. It also shields these actions from NEPA, and prevents the issuance of court-issued injunctions preventing grazing on Federal allotments, unless an alternate allotment is provided to the permit holder. Passed by voice vote.
- **H.Amdt. 610** -- Sponsored by **Rep. John Faso (R-NY-19)** -- Authorizes USDA to carry out a Conservation Effects Assessment Project to quantify the environmental and economic effects of conservation practices in order to improve the efficacy of the programs. Passed by voice vote.
- **H.Amdt. XXX** -- Sponsored by **Rep. Trey Hollingsworth (R-IN-9)** -- Allows the Secretary of the Interior, in conjunction with the Director of the Service, to issue depredation permits to livestock farmers authorizing the taking of black vultures to prevent damage to livestock during calving season. Passed by voice vote.
- **H.Amdt XXX** -- Sponsored by **Rep. Mike Johnson (R-LA-4)** -- Amends Section 7 of the ESA to require that when making a determination of whether a federal action is likely to jeopardize a species, destroy, or adversely modify critical habitat, the Secretary must consider all avoidance, minimization, and conservation measures already in place or proposed to be implemented, including habitat conservation measures outside of designated critical habitat. Passed by voice vote.

HEARINGS AND MARKUPS OF INTEREST

House Subcommittee Marks Up FY 2019 Interior Appropriations Legislation

On Tuesday, May 16, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held a markup of the draft spending bill for the Department of the Interior for

FY 2019. The bill was approved by the Subcommittee by voice vote. Members spoke of several matters of interest to the Service:

- In his opening statement, **Subcommittee Chairman Ken Calvert (R-CA-42)** discussed how the bill restores Service funding to FY 2018 levels for popular program areas such as conserving wetlands, combating wildlife trafficking, combating invasive mussels and carp, protecting fish hatcheries from cuts and closures, and reducing the backlog of species recovered but not yet delisted. He also spoke to the bill restoring funds to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), focusing on species recovery cost-sharing with corporate and other non-governmental partners, and addressing critical deferred maintenance costs.
- **Committee Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ-11)** also voiced his support of fully funding LWCF at FY 2018 levels in the bill.
- **Subcommittee Ranking Member Betty McCollum (D-MN-4)** and **Committee Ranking Member Nita Lowey (D-NY-17)** both expressed their concerns over the inclusion of funding for the reorganization of the Department of the Interior, citing a lack of tribal consultation and cost estimates in the reorganization proposal by DOI.
- **Ranking Member Lowey** expressed her opposition to the inclusion of policy riders in the bill removing gray wolves from ESA and repealing the Waters of the United States Rule.

For more information, please visit:

<https://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=395295>

House Committee Marks Up Natural Resource Legislation

On Wednesday, May 16, the House Committee on Natural Resources held a markup of six bills referred to the Committee, including three of interest to the Service:

- H.R. 224, sponsored by **Representative Don Young (R-AK-AL)**, allows for the importation of polar bear trophies from Canada taken before the listing of the polar bear as threatened under the ESA. **Ranking Member Raul Grijalva (D-AZ-3)** voiced his opposition to the bill, arguing that a carve out of the Marine Mammal Protection Act to import the trophies would set a bad precedent. The bill passed out of committee by voice vote.
- H.R. 4419, sponsored by **Representative Dan Newhouse (R-WA-4)**, streamlines the permitting process for water projects developed by the Bureau of Reclamation and Bureau of Indian Affairs. **Ranking Member Grijalva and Representative Jared Huffman (D-CA-2)** expressed their concerns that the bill undermines the environmental permitting process for hydropower dams, while **Chairman Rob Bishop (R-UT-1)** emphasized that the bill would not undercut the ESA or NEPA consultation process. The bill passed out of committee with a technical amendment by a roll call vote of 21-14.
- H.R. 3916, sponsored by **Representative Ken Calvert (R-CA-42)**, transfers management of anadromous and catadromous fish species listed under the ESA from the Secretary of Commerce to the Secretary of the Interior. **Ranking Member Grijalva and Rep. Huffman** criticized the legislation for placing management burden on the Service without providing the necessary funding, but emphasized the importance of the Service working with the National Marine Fisheries Service to manage the endangered fish. **Representatives Jim Costa (D-CA-16)** and **Jeff Denham (R-CA-10)** expressed their

support for the legislation. The bill passed out of Committee with a technical amendment by a roll call vote of 22-14.

For more information, please visit:

<https://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=404654>

House Committee Discusses Technology to Address Climate Change

On Wednesday, May 16, the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology held an oversight hearing entitled “Using Technology to Address Climate Change.” The purpose of the hearing was to focus on how technology could be deployed for climate change adaptation. Questions during the hearing focused on innovations in technology, the economics of climate change adaptation, and ways the private sector could utilize technological innovations to address climate change. In their opening statements, **Chairman Lamar Smith (R-TX-21)** stated that technologies have the largest impact on extreme weather events, not regulations; while **Ranking Member Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX-30)** noted the importance of adapting to climate change, and stated that climate change is undeniable.

For more information, please visit:

<https://science.house.gov/legislation/hearings/full-committee-hearing-using-technology-address-climate-change>

House Subcommittee Examines Injurious Species Management

On Thursday, May 17, the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans held an oversight hearing entitled “Federal Impediments to Commerce and Innovative Injurious Species Management.” The hearing examined the intended and unintended consequences of the Lacey Act on interstate commerce and focused on challenges to the aquaculture industry and water supply industry, along with the enforcement of the Act regarding injurious species and illegally traded species.

- **Subcommittee Chairman Doug Lamborn (R-CO-5)** stated that the focus of the hearing was on conflicts with the Lacey Act during normal business practices within the aquaculture industry. **Chairman Lamborn** asked about categorical exclusions from FWS on listing injurious species and about the loss of water supply because of listings and lack of environmental impact statements. **Chairman Lamborn** also asked about the impact on the aquaculture industry due to the amendment to the Lacey Act changing the standard of transport violations from “willingly imports” to “knowingly imports,” along with the civil fines associated with Lacey Act cases.
- **Subcommittee Ranking Member Jared Huffman (D-CA-2)** stated that protections from the Lacey Act criminal penalties are already built into the law and noted the negative impacts of invasive species; specifically calling out damages from Asian carp while noting the importance of the Lacey Act. **Ranking Member Huffman** asked about criminal prosecutions of accidental imports and stated that he has not heard of any actual prosecutions of interstate transport.
- **Representative Doug LaMalfa (R-CA-1)** asked about marijuana growth and its enforcement under the Lacey Act. **Rep. LaMalfa** also asked how the agencies prioritize enforcement of various cases, and how the illegal timber trade has been impacted by

Lacey Act enforcement. **Rep. LaMalfa** closed by asking how H.R. 1807 (sponsored by Rep. Gohmert, R-TX-1) would benefit the water supply industry.

- **Representative Rick Crawford (R-AR-1)** stated that no one is trying to get rid of the Lacey Act, but they are trying to make the Act less onerous on the aquaculture industry. **Rep. Crawford** asked about real world examples from the aquaculture industry that would be impacted by H.R. 3041.
- **Delegate Madeleine Bordallo (D-GU-AL)** stated that the Lacey Act is one of the most important wildlife laws that we have, and mentioned her bill H.R. 5697. **Del. Bordallo** asked if enforcement could do more to prevent Lacey Act violations and prevent importation of illegally traded species.

For more information, please visit:

<https://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=404660>

House Subcommittee Examines Broadband Permitting Bill

On Thursday, May 17, the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands held a legislative hearing on several bills, including one of interest to the Service. H.R. 4824, sponsored by **Representative John Curtis (R-UT-3)**, transfers environmental permitting authority to the states for rural broadband technology projects and would allow for certain exceptions to the NEPA consultation process for projects on federal land. **Chairman Tom McClintock (R-CA-4)** spoke in favor of the bill, expressing that rural areas have long been constrained by federal holdings around their communities, while **Representative Colleen Hanabusa (D-HI-1)** voiced her concerns with the legislation, stating that provisions within the FY 2018 spending bill already addressed rural broadband issues, and that H.R. 4824 may instead complicate the permitting process for these projects.

For more information, please visit:

<https://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=404669>

Senate Committee Marks Up Federal Lands and Hydropower Legislation

On Thursday, May 17, the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources held a markup of nearly thirty pending bills, two of which are of interest to the Service.

- H.R. 995, sponsored by **Representative Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY-8)**, directs the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to modernize terms in certain regulations. The bill was amended in the nature of a substitute and passed out of Committee by voice vote, and passed out of the House of Representatives in November 2017.
- S. 1030, sponsored by **Senator Angus King (I-ME)**, requires the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to submit to Congress a report on certain hydropower projects, including the environmental and wildlife costs incurred by project owners from the requirements imposed by a FERC license. The bill was amended in the nature of a substitute and passed out of Committee by voice vote.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2018/5/business-meeting-to-consider-pending-legislation-05-17-18>

Senate Committee Discusses 2018 Water Resources Development Legislation

On Thursday, May 17, the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works held a second legislative hearing to discuss S. 2800, “America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2018,” sponsored by **Chairman John Barrasso (R-WY)**. The discussion focused on streamlining the environmental permitting process for Army Corps of Engineers projects, including wetlands permitting.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings?ID=FAE6C020-0E5B-4D16-953D-564691D195D5>

UPCOMING HEARINGS AND MARKUPS

House Committee to Hold Markup of FY 2019 Interior Appropriations Legislation

On Tuesday, May 22, the House Committee on Appropriations will hold a full committee markup of the spending bill for the Department of the Interior for FY 2019. See above for a full description of funding levels for the Service for FY 2019 in the legislation. The markup is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. in 2118 Rayburn House Office Building.

For more information, please visit:

<https://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=395302>

House Subcommittee to Examine Desert Tortoise HCP and PR-DJ Legislation

On Tuesday, May 22, the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands will hold a legislative hearing to discuss three bills, two of which are of interest to the Service. H.R. 5597, sponsored by **Representative Chris Stewart (R-UT-2)**, effectively extends the Desert Tortoise Habitat Conservation Plan in Washington County, Utah with a proposed amendment. H.R. 5875, sponsored by **Delegate Madeleine Bordallo (D-GU)** amends the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson Acts to create funding parity between the states and U.S. territories and the District of Columbia. The hearing is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. in 1324 Longworth House Office Building.

For more information, please visit:

<https://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=404730>

Senate Committee to Hold Markup on Shark Conservation Legislation

On Tuesday, May 22, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation will hold a markup of several bills referred to the Committee, including one of interest to the Service. S. 2764, sponsored by **Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL)**, requires that imports of shark products only be allowed into the U.S. from countries with conservation standards and management programs certified by the Secretary of Commerce. The bill is a companion to H.R. 5248, sponsored by **Representative Daniel Webster (R-FL-11)**. The hearing is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. in 106 Dirksen Senate Office Building.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings?ID=66C08C71-DD0D-4EDA-B064-368BE9100314>

House Committee to Discuss International Wildlife Conservation and Wildlife Trafficking

On Tuesday, May 22, the House Committee on Foreign Affairs will hold an oversight hearing titled “Advancing Effective Conservation Policy Worldwide: Successes, Challenges, and Next Steps.” No federal witnesses will testify at the hearing. The hearing is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. in 172 Rayburn House Office Building.

For more information, please visit:

<https://foreignaffairs.house.gov/press-release/chairman-royce-announces-wildlife-trafficking-hearing/>

House Committee to Hold Markup of African Wildlife Conservation Legislation

On Tuesday, May 22, the House Committee on Foreign Affairs will hold a markup of H.R. 4819, “Defending Economic Livelihoods and Threatened Animals Act (DELTA),” sponsored by **Representative Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE-1)**. The bill helps to build local capacity to protect wildlife and biodiversity and create economic growth in the greater Okavango River Basin in southern Africa. The markup is scheduled to immediately follow the hearing “Advancing Effective Conservation Policy Worldwide: Successes, Challenges, and Next Steps” in 172 Rayburn House Office Building.

For more information, please visit:

<https://foreignaffairs.house.gov/markup/markup-h-r-4819/>

House Committee to Consider Floor Process for FY 2019 NDAA

Next week, the House Committee on Rules will consider H.R. 5515, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY 2019 in order to determine which amendments will be debated on the House floor as well as a process for debate. One amendment is of interest to the Service, Amendment 337, sponsored by **Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-CA-50)**, which would create Port Access Routes that prioritize shipping lanes over all other seaway uses, authorize the transfer of DOI lands in exchange for the privately held Ayakulik Island in Alaska, and would transfer Coast Guard land to Hobe Sound NWR in FL.

Additionally, several provisions in the underlying bill are of interest to the Service, including: making permanent certain land withdrawals including for Desert NWR; allowing the transfer of 5,000 acres of land between DOI and DOD; moving the implementation of the Sikes Act from the Service to DOI; amending the MMPA to extend the period of incidental take authorization requests from five to ten years; preventing the Service from listing the greater sage grouse and the lesser prairie chicken for ten years, effectively delisting the American burying beetle, and shielding all of these actions from judicial review; and amending the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to limit the state cost-share for shooting range construction, maintenance or expansion to 10 percent, and allow the amounts provided under the Act to be available for five years.

The Committee will meet on Monday, May 21 at 5:00 p.m. and Tuesday, May 22 at 3:00 p.m. in Room H-313, in the Capitol. For more information, please visit:

<https://rules.house.gov/bill/115/hr-5515>

Senate Committee and Subcommittees to Vote on FY 2019 NDAA

During the week of May 21, the Senate Armed Services Subcommittees will hold closed session markups of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY 2019. The Readiness Subcommittee mark is scheduled for May 22 at 11:00 a.m. On Wednesday, May 23, the full committee will begin a markup of the legislation to be completed by the end of the week.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.armed-services.senate.gov/hearings/18-05-23-schedule-for-armed-services-full-committee-markup-of-the-national-defense-authorization-act-for-fiscal-year-2019>

INTRODUCED LEGISLATION OF INTEREST

S.2877 — A bill to amend the Wilderness Act to allow local Federal officials to determine the manner in which nonmotorized uses may be permitted in wilderness areas, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Sen. Lee, Mike [R-UT] (Introduced 05/17/2018) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Latest Action: Senate - 05/17/2018 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

S.2866 — A bill to require the Secretary of the Army to expedite the completion of certain feasibility studies and reports and to amend the Coastal Barrier Resources Act to ensure public safety, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Sen. Cornyn, John [R-TX] (Introduced 05/16/2018) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: Senate - Environment and Public Works

Latest Action: Senate - 05/16/2018 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

S.2865 — A bill to ensure that certain materials used in carrying out Federal infrastructure aid programs are made in the United States, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI] (Introduced 05/16/2018) Cosponsors: (6)

Committees: Senate - Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Latest Action: Senate - 05/16/2018 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R.5827 — To extend the authorization for the National Dam Safety Program, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep. Maloney, Sean Patrick [D-NY-18] (Introduced 05/15/2018) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Transportation and Infrastructure

Latest Action: House - 05/15/2018 Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

H.R.5817 — To extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project.

Sponsor: Rep. Cook, Paul [R-CA-8] (Introduced 05/15/2018) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

Latest Action: House - 05/15/2018 Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

H.R.5787 — To amend the Coastal Barrier Resources Act to give effect to more accurate maps of units of the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System that were produced by digital mapping of such units, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep. Dunn, Neal P. [R-FL-2] (Introduced 05/15/2018) Cosponsors: (2)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 05/15/2018 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

Conversation Contents

Weekly Report to the Secretary

Attachments:

/51. Weekly Report to the Secretary/1.1 Weekly Report to the Secretary
May 20-26.docx

"Dermody, Matthew" <matthew_dermody@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Dermody, Matthew" <matthew_dermody@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri May 18 2018 06:23:21 GMT-0600 (MDT)
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Subject:

Weekly Report to the Secretary

Attachments:

Weekly Report to the Secretary May 20-26.docx

All,

Attached is the Weekly Report to the Secretary in both Google Doc and Word formats. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Matthew Dermody
Special Assistant
Office of the Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240
202-513-7778

 [Weekly Report to the Secretary May 20-26.docx](#)

**WEEKLY REPORT
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
MAY 20-26, 2018**

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Hearings, and Travel

Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt will be in the office all week.

Assistant Deputy Secretary Todd Willens will be on official travel from Wednesday May 23-Friday May 25.

Associate Deputy Secretary Jim Cason will be in the office all week.

Immediate Announcements and Actions (within the next 14 days)

During the month of May, the Department will release a memo to reform recreational shooting management on public lands. This initiative proactively responds to the fatal tragedy that occurred in Arizona earlier this year by directing the Bureaus to revise existing and implement new policies and guidelines that expand access to recreational shooting opportunities while promoting firearm safety, education, and training.

15-60 Day Look-Ahead

No updates to report.

Awareness

No updates to report.

OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR

Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Congressional Hearings, and Travel

No update to report.

Week Ahead Announcements and Actions

NEW CASES:

Friends of Animals v. Silvey and BLM (D. Nev.)

Friends of Animals (FOA) is challenging a 10-year wild horse gather plan for the Antelope Valley and Triple B Complexes that includes removal of excess wild horses, application of fertility vaccines, and gelding. FOA filed its motion for summary judgment on May 3. The Government's response and cross-motion is due by May 24.

American Wild Horse Campaign v. Zinke (D. Nev.)

On February 6, Plaintiffs filed a complaint challenging the Antelope Valley and Triple B Complexes gather plan, and alleging that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) violated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) because it failed to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to analyze the impacts from the release of geldings and application of GonaCon (instead of PZP) to mares for fertility control. On May 8, the Government filed its Answer to the Complaint, along with the Administrative Record. Plaintiff's opening brief is due June 15.

SIGNIFICANT DECISIONS:

Sierra Club, et al. v. National Park Service, et al. (4th Cir; 18-1082); *Defenders of Wildlife, et al. v. Fish and Wildlife Service, et al.* (4th Cir; 18-1083) - Atlantic Coast Pipeline

On May 15, the Fourth Circuit issued a brief per curiam Order vacating the FWS Incidental Take Statement (ITS) because it failed to set clear, enforceable limits on take as required under the ESA. The Order indicates the reasoning will be more fully explained in a forthcoming opinion. Although the legal effect of the Order remains unclear pending the full opinion, as a practical matter, tree clearing activities for the pipeline had previously been suspended through late Summer/early Fall pursuant to a FERC-issued "certificate of public convenience and necessity" for protection of migratory birds and threatened and endangered bat species. We will utilize this potential window of opportunity to explore judicial or administrative options to minimize needless delay and fully meet all ESA requirements. Oral arguments were held May 10, 2018. Petitioners Sierra Club, et al. assert that NPS lacked authority to issue the ROW permits and that FWS failed to issue a proper ITS. We have not yet received a ruling on the NPS claims. These are unique matters with direct jurisdiction in the Circuit Court under the Natural Gas Act.

Desert Survivors v. US Department of the Interior (N.D. Ca) - "Bi-State Sage Grouse"

On May 15, the court granted plaintiffs' motion for summary judgment in this matter involving the Bi-state Sage Grouse. This case has implications for the Service's policy interpreting "significant portion of its range" in the definitions of threatened and endangered species. While the court upheld the Service's interpretation of "range" as "current range," it found the definition of "significant" in the policy was impermissible because it failed to give independent meaning to the phrase "significant portion of its range." This is our second loss on this issue. The first decision came down in February 2018 from the District of Arizona in litigation challenging a not-warranted finding for the cactus ferruginous pygmy owl. There are at least two additional lawsuits where this definition is also at issue. The Region is convening a call in the very near future with the Department of Justice (DOJ), NOAA-General Counsel, and the FWS to define options for moving forward. The court also found that the Service could consider future and voluntary conservation efforts under its Policy for the Evaluation of Conservation Efforts When Making Listing Determinations (PECE). In doing so, however, the Service must find that such efforts are sufficiently certain to be implemented and effective; here, the court found the Service had not demonstrated these efforts were certain to be effective.

U.S. v. Pennington (N.D. Cal.)

This criminal case arose after Bryan Pennington illegally anchored his boat in Aquatic Cove, which is part of San Francisco Maritime National Historic Park. Mr. Pennington first sailed into

the cove and anchored his boat more than six months ago. The cove is a popular swimming area for those brave enough to withstand the Bay's chilly waters. Vessel anchoring is prohibited in the cove without a permit and there are no facilities for waste water disposal. Mr. Pennington ignored all verbal and written warnings to leave. On more than one occasion, his boat became unmoored and crashed into the NPS's pier. The NPS hired commercial tugs to tow the boat out of the cove and impound it, but after recovering his boat each time, Mr. Pennington sailed back to the cove and took up residency again. Mr. Pennington's activities received significant local press coverage and drew the ire of the Bay's two prominent swim clubs. With the assistance of the US Attorney's Office, misdemeanor charges were filed. Rather than plead to the charges, Mr. Pennington elected to go to trial. He represented himself at a hearing packed with irate members of the local swim clubs. The Magistrate convicted Mr. Pennington on all counts and sentenced him to 5 years of unsupervised probation with restrictions not to enter Aquatic Park Cove in any vessel. Any violation of these conditions will be deemed a violation of his probation terms and result in another hearing before the Magistrate.

Rocky Mountain Wild, et al. v. Dallas, et al. (D. Colo. 2017)

The United States decided not to continue the appeal of this case and filed a motion to dismiss on May 14. The Applicant-Intervenors (Leavell-McCombs Joint Venture (LMJV)) are still pursuing an appeal. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) is working with LMJV to grant it Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANICLA) access. The USFS will consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for Canada lynx. The district court ruled against the FWS and the USFS on all claims made by plaintiffs under NEPA and the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The court found that FWS's Biological Opinion (BO) was arbitrary and capricious when it extended incidental take authority to applicant for its development of resort community at the base of Wolf Creek ski area in the Rio Grande National Forest in central Colorado. The court also found that USFS violated NEPA with respect to a land exchange it conducted with applicant so that it could cross Federal lands to access the area where the resort community is proposed.

OTHER LITIGATION MATTERS:

Enforcement Issues - Justice Companies

Members of the Knoxville Field Solicitor's Office (SOL-KNX) and Division of Mineral Resources (DMR) continue to advise the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) regarding new violations by the Justice Companies and enforcement options. OSMRE is in the process of referring several Tennessee violations and violations on a Virginia mine to SOL-KNX for alternative enforcement of SMCRA, pursuant to 30 C.F.R. § 847.16. We have started the process of identifying all individual agents of the permittees who are personally liable for abating SMCRA violations under the holding in *United States v. Dix Fork Coal Co.*, 692 F.2d 436, (6th Cir. 1982). On May 10, OSMRE and its legal team held a conference call with state regulatory authorities who are dealing with similar problems in Alabama, Kentucky, Illinois, Virginia and West Virginia. Several of the state regulatory authorities have begun forfeiting reclamation bonds, and some are starting to revoke coal mining permits. The Solicitor's Office is drafting complaints for injunctive relief and readying referral packages for DOJ. The Kentucky regulatory authority asked OSMRE and members of its legal team to attend upcoming evidentiary hearings in Frankfort, Kentucky, as a show of enforcement unity.

Wisteria Island Title Dispute

On April 16, SOL briefed the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management (ASLM) on status and options regarding the ongoing dispute over ownership of Wisteria Island, located off Key West, Florida. A draft letter regarding possible affirmative litigation will be ready for Front Office review soon.

Yount v. Jewell and BLM; National Mining Association (NMA) and Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) v. Jewell, et al.; American Exploration and Mining Association (AEMA) v. Jewell, et al.; and Quatterra Alaska Inc. and Arizona-Utah Local Economic Coalition v. Jewell, et al. (9th Circuit) - Challenges to Northern Arizona Withdrawal

In these consolidated cases, plaintiffs challenged former-Secretary Salazar's January 2012 decision to withdraw approximately 1 million acres of public and National Forest System lands near Grand Canyon National Park from location and entry under the 1872 Mining Law. On December 12, 2017, the Ninth Circuit affirmed the district court's dismissal of plaintiffs' challenges. On March 9, American Exploration and Mining Association and National Mining Association filed separate petitions for certiorari with the U.S. Supreme Court. On April 12, 2018, the U.S. waived its response to the petitions; however, on May 3, the Court requested the United States' views. That response is due June 4.

In re General Adjudication of All Rights to Use Water in the Little Colorado River System and Source, Civ. 6417 (Apache County Superior Court) (Hopi Claims)

On April 27, the Little Colorado River Coalition filed motions for partial summary judgment with respect to claims made by the Hopi Tribe regarding priority date and allotments. Because the United States filed related claims as trustee, we will file a response to clarify that: (1) the United States asserts no claims based on state law; (2) priority date issues have been decided at this stage, but can be appealed; and (3) the United States claims water rights on behalf of the trust allotments. Our response is due June 6. Consistent with a schedule set by the adjudication court, the United States will file an amended statement of claimant as trustee for the Navajo Nation and allottees within the Navajo Reservation on June 1. This statement covers water rights claims for: stock ponds; stock and wildlife watering; and domestic, commercial, municipal, and light industrial purposes.

Raymond Cross v. Department of the Interior (D. Ariz.)

Pro Per Plaintiff brings a Complaint for Declaratory Relief seeking a determination that: a) action taken by the Fort Berthold Agency Superintendent in accordance with 25 C.F.R. § 81.57(a)(2)(i) is a "final agency action"; and b) the Superintendent's determination on the required number of signatures is contrary to the Three Affiliated Tribes' Constitution. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona has expressed its intent to seek a change of venue. The United States' deadline to file its answer is June 25.

Ute Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation - The CFC granted the Government's motion for an extension of time to respond to Plaintiff's complaint. The United States' response/answer is now due on August 6.

Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation v. United States Department of the Interior, Ryan Zinke, Bureau of Reclamation and Bureau of Indian Affairs - The CFC granted the Government's motion for an extension of time to respond to Plaintiff's Complaint. The United States' response/answer is now due on August 6, 2018.

Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation v. United States Department of the Interior, Ryan Zinke, Bureau of Reclamation and Bureau of Indian Affairs (D.D.C.)

The Court granted the Government's motion for an extension of time to respond to Plaintiff's complaint. The Government's response/answer is now due on August 16.

Chemehuevi v. United States (CFC)

The Government's renewed motion to dismiss is now due on July 18, so long as Plaintiff does not file a motion to compel regarding jurisdictional discovery propounded on the United States. If Plaintiff files a motion to compel, the Government's response date will be reset. Originally, the Government's renewed motion to dismiss was due on June 21, 2018 but Plaintiff filed an unopposed motion for an extension of time to evaluate the Government's jurisdictional discovery responses.

Stearney v. United States (D. Ariz.)

Plaintiff filed a lawsuit pursuant to the FTCA in the District of Arizona, seeking damages totaling \$185,450,000. Plaintiffs allege that Navajo Nation Police Officers negligently engaged in a high speed pursuit with an intoxicated driver causing that driver to crash into the Hirayama family car, killing the parents, son, and injuring the daughter. The United States filed a Motion for Summary Judgment on May 4. The motion asserts that the conduct of the tribal officers was not the proximate cause of the accident and that the Plaintiff's claims concerning negligent training, supervision, and failure to implement or enforce an appropriate pursuit policy fail due to lack of evidence and are barred by the discretionary function exception. Plaintiff's response is due June 1, and the United States reply is due June 15.

Martin v. United States, et al. (D.N.M.)

Plaintiff filed this personal injury action pursuant to the FTCA against the United States and a retired BLM employee in the District of New Mexico, seeking personal injury damages which are estimated to total \$300,000. Plaintiff alleges the former BLM employee's failure to yield upon entering a highway from a private road or driveway caused a vehicle accident with a truck operated by Plaintiff, who sustained injuries as a result thereof, under theories of negligence and negligence per se. The Answer is due July 2.

M.L. Johnson Family properties, LLC v. Zinke and Premier Elkhorn Coal Co. (E.D. KY)

In this long-inactive case, the plaintiff filed a motion on May 9, 2018, to reopen to obtain declaratory relief. The court had previously issued a Memorandum Opinion and Order on June 13, 2014, (later vacated by the 6th Circuit) that ordered OSMRE to conduct an immediate inspection of a coal mining operation and granted a preliminary injunction to cease mining during the pendency of the inspection. The resultant agency action spawned administrative litigation and judicial review, which affirmed OSMRE's actions on March 21. Plaintiff now seeks a final order from the earlier case that the phrase "the surface owner" used in 30 U.S.C. § 1260(b)(6)(A) means all cotenants – requiring consent to surface mining from all cotenants -

when surface interests are held by a tenancy in common (the judicial review decision interpreted a different provision under 30 U.S.C. § 1260(b)(6)(C)).

NON-LITIGATION MATTERS:

In re The Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico (D.P.R.)

On May 2, the Regional Solicitor's Office (with the assistance of the Division of General Law) filed a Proof of Claim on behalf of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in the referenced case, which is part of the extensive bankruptcy filing by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico under the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act. The Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority owes USGS approximately \$172,000 under several joint funding agreement for sedimentation surveys of reservoirs operated by the Authority. Although USGS is hopeful that the Authority will make its payments voluntarily, the Proof of Claim had to be filed before May 29, to protect USGS's rights as a creditor.

Everglades National Park—Hole in the Donut Wetlands Mitigation Project

Since 1994, Everglades National Park has operated a wetlands mitigation bank in a 6,000-acre area of the Park known as Hole in the Donut (HID). Payments from developers for wetlands mitigation credits from the Corps of Engineer are used to eliminate invasive vegetation from HID. Recently, the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), which owns a 230-acre inholding within the Park adjacent to HID, has asked for NPS assistance in establishing a similar wetlands mitigation bank to fund removal of invasives from the inholding. The key legal question is whether the BSA property can be brought under the existing procurement contract between NPS and the company that actually does the work of removing the invasive species from HID. An attorney from DPW, in consultation with an attorney from DGL and a contracting specialist from NPS-SERO, is researching this question and hopes to answer NPS soon.

California WaterFix (CWF)

This week, Santa Clara Valley Water District voted to participate fully in the CWF, agreeing to fund up to \$650 million in the project. Cases in chief for the Protestants before the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) water right hearing for CWF, Part 2, closed on April 25. Parties to the hearing now await a ruling from the SWRCB on a rebuttal schedule. CVP contractors and the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) are preparing for the CWF to be a State-only project, with only minimal use by the CVP, or its contractors. Because a State-only CWF may have impacts to the water supply of the CVP, Reclamation is beginning to build an accounting model in CalSimII to account for a State-only operated CWF. This will include outreach to CVP contractor (and CWF protestant) modelers, as well as modelers for Metropolitan Water District (MWD), the State Water Contractors (SWC), and the California Division of Water Resources (DWR). If it continues to look like there will be little, to no, CVP participation, it will raise issues with whether Reclamation should continue as a co-petitioner for the water right change before the SWRCB, and whether we should continue as NEPA and ESA federal lead agencies. Currently, there are notions that if MWD, DWR and the SWCs cannot come to an agreement over the extent of mitigation needed for the CVP, then Reclamation should consider withdrawing its petition before the State Board.

Fourth of July Armed Services Celebration and Concert at the White House

SOL National Parks Branch is advising President's Park regarding a draft agreement between the White House Office, the NPS, and the National Park Foundation to cosponsor a celebration and concert on the South Lawn of the White House on the Fourth of July.

Implementation of the Blackfeet Water Rights Settlement

Under procedures developed by the Secretary's Indian Water Rights Office (SIWRO), DWR provides support in the implementation of this recently enacted settlement, including drafting various documents necessary for the Secretary's execution of the settlement agreement and related documents. As part of this process, (b) (5)

Meanwhile, DWR will provide a draft recommendation from SOL to the Secretary to the Front Office for review and finalization. SIWRO advises that a signing ceremony will be scheduled for mid-June and wants to expedite a final package through SOL and Executive Secretariat for signing by all relevant bureaus.

Legislative Proposals for BLM

DMR assisted BLM in complying with requests from the House Natural Resources Committee for a drafting service to prepare legislative language that would (1) expand the categorical exclusions under the NEPA to include additional actions related to mineral development, (2) impose cost recovery for protests, and (3) streamline processing of applications for permits to drill, and limit consultations with other agencies. This week, DMR will participate in BLM's briefing of the ASLM's office on the proposals.

BSEE ACT Pilot Program

The BSEE Director has requested SOL review of a pilot program he has proposed to the ASLM. Called "Accelerated Compliance Together," or ACT, the program would involve identifying a subset of less serious ("warning") Incidents of Noncompliance (INCs) that would be eligible for reduction from INC to "Work Order" designation if resolved in less than the 14 days currently provided (length allowed dependent on nature of issue and historical data on correction times). Participation would be voluntary, but would not be open to operators who meet certain disqualifying criteria (e.g., panel investigation within last year, increased oversight list inspections, unpaid royalties). BSEE is seeking SOL's clearance or a statement of no objection to the project.

BLM/Forest Service Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Oil and Gas Leasing and Operations on National Forest System (NFS) Lands

DMR is reviewing a draft Memorandum of Understanding that establishes joint BLM and USFS procedures for managing oil and gas leasing and operational activities under leases on NFS lands. The MOU is required by section 363 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (E.P.Act). This MOU will supersede the 2006 BLM and USFS MOU. DMR is coordinating with the Office of General Counsel (OGC) at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

BLM/FS Geothermal Leasing and Operations MOU on NFS lands

DMR has completed review of this draft MOU. The edits have been sent to BLM to seek USFS approval. DMR is coordinating with the OGC. This MOU will meet the requirements of

sections 222 and 225 of the E.P.Act. It will supersede and expand the scope of the 2007 MOU to cover all stages of geothermal exploration, leasing, and development.

OSMRE Informal Review Decision Related to a Ten Day Notice issued to the State of West Virginia

In litigation brought by an environmental group – *Coal River Mountain Watch v. DOI* (D.D.C.) – the court granted the government’s unopposed motion for vacatur and voluntary remand so OSMRE can reconsider the challenged informal review decision. The decision found that a coal mining permit issued to Marfork Coal Co. did not terminate automatically when operations did not begin within three years of permit issuance. OSMRE’s Acting Director may be in a position to approve a new informal review decision this week. We have reviewed and commented on a prior version of the draft decision. In an e-mail to DOJ, plaintiff’s counsel indicated that the plaintiff in the litigation is getting to the point of returning to court to seek a compliance schedule.

Lemma-Whyman U.S. Army Reserve Center (ARC) Transfer to New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

The NPS and GSA are working together on a public benefit conveyance through the Federal Lands to Parks Program of the former Lemma-Whyman U.S. Army Reserve Center to the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation for public park and recreational use. The State will annex the ARC property to the neighboring Sonnenberg Gardens and Mansion State Historic Park and will repurpose and redevelop the property into a new entrance and visitor center for the park. Reconstruction, maintenance and operation of the site will be delegated to the non-profit that currently operates the existing park. The conveyance is of interest to U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer, whose office issued a press release regarding the transfer on May 3, 2018. Additional press or Congressional interest may be raised. This office is reviewing the Program of Utilization and the agreement delegating operational authority.

Review proposed Legal Advisory from U.S. Office of Government Ethics

We are reviewing and revising a proposed Legal Advisory under consideration by the U.S. Office of Government Ethics regarding waivers under 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1) for an employee’s otherwise disqualifying financial interest arising from intellectual property rights.

Big Bend Part Deux

We are discussing Big Bend Brewing Company’s Label (label #2) with DOJ. This is the second beer can label that Big Bend has created that infringes NPS’ trademarks. Informal communication with the party has ceased and a notice to sue is being prepared in anticipation of legal action.

Mission-supporting Services Inclusion within Liberty Island Concession Contract

We have advised NPS’ Commercial Services Program that including Park staff transportation services within the upcoming re-competition of the Liberty Island Ferry concession contract appears permissible.

Santa Fe Indian School (SFIS) Oral “Lease”

We were asked to review a proposed lease for the Court of Indian Offenses ("CFR Court") at SFIS that included a one-time payment of \$60,800 for "previous use of space" between January 1, 2015, and February 28. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Lease Contracting Officer (LCO) has confirmed that a written agreement was not put in place and that use of the space and lessor improvements only were authorized orally. Oral contracts are generally not enforceable against the government unless supported by documentary evidence. *See* 31 U.S.C. § 1501(a) (1). Furthermore, the LCO has not provided any documentary evidence of the understanding of the parties. In March, the proposed a second alternative to the standard ratification process where, in lieu of monetary payment for prior use of the space, OJS would "donate" to the lessor all furniture currently in the space. The LCO believed that donating the furniture will eliminate the "back rent issue" since no money will be transferred. SOL requested that the LCO provide statutory or regulatory citation(s) to support ratifying the unauthorized commitment using either of the proposed processes. Even if legal authority existed for giving the furniture, SFIS declined this alternative. DGL and DIA are currently waiting to see whether BIA follows through with the ratification process.

15 State Street lease between SOL and NPS

On April 27, DGL was asked to review a proposed lease between SOL and NPS for the 8th floor of [15 State Street, Boston, MA](#). The lease was drafted under 36 C.F.R. Part 18 because the building is located within the boundaries of the Boston National Historical Park. Section 18.5 requires that "units of government" lease property at "Fair Market Value," despite NPS wanting to execute the lease under the Economy Act and only charging SOL operations and maintenance costs. We are currently reviewing this matter.

30-60 Day Look-Ahead

No update provided.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE AND PARKS

Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Hearings, and Travel

From May 21-24, Susan Combs, Senior Advisor to the Secretary, exercising the authority of the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, will be in the office. On May 25, she will be on annual leave.

On May 21-25, Deputy Assistant Secretary Aurelia Skipwith and Deputy Assistant Secretary Ryan Hambleton will be in the office.

From May 20-25, NPS Deputy Director Dan Smith will be in the office.

From May 21-22, FWS Principal Deputy Director Greg Sheehan attend the Council to Advance Hunting & Shooting Sports National R3 Symposium in Lincoln, Nebraska. On May 23-25, he will be in the office.

Immediate Announcements and Actions (within the next 14 days)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

[UPDATE] In mid to late May, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a Notice of Intent informing the public that we are no longer considering preparation of a programmatic environmental impact statement to evaluate a proposed rule to authorize incidental take under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). The December 22, 2017, DOI Solicitor's Opinion M-37050 concluded that the MBTA's prohibition on pursuing, hunting, taking, capturing, killing or attempting to do so applies only to direct and affirmative purposeful actions, not to incidental take. Therefore, a rulemaking to regulate incidental take, which we announced in May 2015, is no longer necessary. No outreach is planned. FWS will develop talking points to answer media and stakeholder questions should they arise. (05/09/2018)

[UPDATE] In mid to late May, FWS will announce updated eagle priors and seek comment on several options for applying them. "Priors" are inputs for the collision risk model (CRM) FWS uses to estimate eagle fatalities at wind energy facilities. In the 2016 final rule revising the eagle incidental take permit regulations, FWS committed to update the golden eagle priors and explore whether sufficient data exist to develop separate bald eagle exposure and collision priors. The revised priors incorporate much more data than the original priors; enough to create species-specific priors. The updated collision prior is slightly lower than the current prior for golden eagles and higher for bald eagles. No outreach is planned. Responsive talking points will be available for if-asked questions. (Updated 05/09/2018)

[NEW] In mid to late May, FWS will issue a Biological Opinion (BO) to the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) for the Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule. FWS originally expected to issue the BO on February 26; however, the date was extended to allow for additional coordination with Florida and Corps. FWS anticipates all parties will now approve the draft BO on this new date. This consultation involved no changes to the actual water level schedule or to lake operations. The only notable change is a new method for calculating the take of endangered snail kites. Consequently, this recent consultation is not controversial. (05/16/2018)

[NEW] On May 21, a representative from FWS's Midwest Region will participate in a congressional staff briefing about Asian carp control efforts and the release of the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee's (ACRCC) 2018 action plan. The briefing is being organized by the Northeast Midwest Institute and invites are going to staff of members of the congressional Great Lakes Task Force. FWS is participating in its capacity as co-chair of the ACRCC. Other federal agency members of the ACRCC are expected to participate as well (EPA, Army Corps). (05/16/2018)

Between May 20-25, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a proposed rule and open a 30-day public comment period on the 2018-19 Refuge-Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations. The proposed rule would open 30 various national wildlife refuges to hunting and/or sport fishing for the first time and expand hunting and fishing opportunities at others. Outreach is planned to include a national news release when the *Federal Register* notice is

published and notifications to members of Congress in affected districts, with some stakeholder outreach. (Updated 05/02/2018)

[UPDATE] On or around May 21, FWS will send a news release summarizing cross-fostering efforts of Mexican wolf pups to media and stakeholders. Typically FWS will not announce until a successful cross-foster event is completed. The Interagency Field Team will monitor the recipient packs through the summer to determine the success of these cross-fostering actions. Responsive talking points will be available for if asked questions. Planned outreach will include a regional news release and notifications to congressional offices and stakeholders. (Updated 05/16/2018)

On May 21-25, FWS will host 28 youth from around the country, part of the Career Discovery Internship Program (CDIP), in Philadelphia at the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum, for a week of training before they head to various field stations for summer internships. CDIP is FWS' award winning program in partnership with the Student Conservation Association, that introduces culturally and ethnically diverse youth into the field of conservation. (05/09/2018)

[NEW] On May 24, the thrice-yearly Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act Federal Task Force meeting will take place in Lafayette, Louisiana. Federal Task Force members include Corps of Engineers (Colonel, New Orleans District [Chairman]); State of Louisiana (Executive Assistant to the Governor for Coastal Activities); Department of the Interior (FWS); EPA (Region 6); Department of Agriculture (Natural Resource Conservation Service); and Department of Commerce (National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration). DOI is represented by the FWS Area Supervisor. This meeting is anticipated to be non-confrontational, centering on project updates. Open press. (05/16/2018)

[NEW] On May 25, FWS is joining the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control for an event to commemorate completion of The Mispillion Harbor Rehabilitation Project. This \$4.25 million project was funded through Hurricane Sandy Supplemental Appropriations administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. This is open press. (05/16/2018)

On May 29-31, 13 Hispanic Access Foundation (HAF) interns will be attending orientation in DC to prepare for their summer positions with FWS in the Northeast Region, Midwest Region and HQ. The Hispanic Access Foundation is a non-profit organization that helps connect Hispanic communities with civic engagement. FWS is working with HAF to employ Hispanic youth through internships. (05/09/2018)

[NEW] On May 30, FWS will present the 2018 FWS National Military Partners Conservation Award to the Florida National Guard's Joint Training Center at Camp Blanding in Starke, Florida. This is open press, and a news release is planned. (05/16/2018)

[UPDATE] On or around May 31, FWS and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) plan to send to the *Federal Register* a proposal to revise the regulations pertaining to interagency cooperation pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (50 CFR 402) and the procedures for listing of species and designation of critical habitat pursuant to section 4 of the

Act (50 CFR 424). FWS will also propose to end the use of the 'blanket' 4(d) rule for newly listed threatened species (50 CFR 17) to recognize the difference between endangered and threatened species and align with NMFS' current practice. Planned outreach includes a national news release, emails and phone calls to congressional offices and stakeholders. Interagency comments on the draft proposed rules have been addressed, and revised rules will be submitted to OMB the week of May 14. (Updated 05/16/2018)

[UPDATE] In late May, FWS will publish a proposal to establish annual hunting regulations for certain migratory game birds for the 2019-20 hunting season. This is the first step in the annual regulatory cycle. The FWS Regulations Committee will recommend the final frameworks at their October meeting. Planned outreach includes congressional and stakeholder notifications. No news release is planned. Responsive talking points will be available for if-asked questions. (Updated 05/16/2018)

[NEW] In late May, FWS will publish a proposed rule in the *Federal Register* on special seasons for hunting migratory game birds by tribes for the 2018-19 season. This rule prescribes special migratory bird hunting regulations for certain tribes on Indian reservations, off-reservation trust lands and ceded lands. This rule responds to tribal requests for FWS recognition of their authority to regulate hunting under established guidelines. This rule allows the establishment of season bag limits and, thus, harvest at levels compatible with populations and habitat conditions. Responsive talking points will be available for if-asked questions. (05/16/2018)

In late May, FWS is providing for public inspection the final supplemental environmental impact statement on the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation's request to amend its 2010 Forested State Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and incidental take permit. The amendment would authorize additional incidental take of the threatened grizzly bear, Canada lynx, bull trout and unlisted westslope cutthroat trout associated with forest management on 81,416 acres proposed to be added to the HCP. Outreach is planned and includes a regional news release and congressional/stakeholder notifications. (05/09/2018)

[UPDATE] In late May, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a final determination on the proposal to delist the Hidden Lake bluecurls, a plant in California, due to recovery. FWS does not expect opposition to the delisting. Primary stakeholders include California Department of Parks and Recreation Mount San Jacinto State Park. Planned outreach will include a national news release and notifications to stakeholders and members of Congress. A communications plan has been shared with DOI Comms. Pending clearance by Exec Sec. (Updated 05/16/2018)

On or around June 1, FWS plans to publish in the *Federal Register* the final 2018-19 hunting regulations for certain migratory game birds. FWS annually prescribes frameworks, or outer limits, for dates and times when hunting may occur and the number of birds that may be taken and possessed in hunting seasons. These frameworks are necessary to allow state selections of seasons and limits and to allow recreational harvest at levels compatible with population and habitat conditions. Planned outreach includes congressional and stakeholder notifications. No news release is planned. Responsive talking points will be available for if-asked questions. (04/11/2018)

On June 1 and 2, representatives from FWS, U.S. Forest Service, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and other partners will celebrate the proposal to delist Kirtland's warbler. The current Kirtland's warbler population is estimated to be over 2,000 pairs, more than double the recovery goal. The Kirtland's warbler population continues to grow and has exceeded recovery goals for the past 16 years. FWS is accepting comments on the proposal through July 11. (04/25/2018)

On or around June 1, FWS anticipates the draft supplemental environmental impact statement for expanded public access to Rattlesnake Mountain on Hanford Reach National Monument, in Washington State, will be available for public review and comment. This is part of the required regulatory processes to provide public access to Rattlesnake Mountain, consistent with a mandate in the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) to provide public access to the summit of Rattlesnake Mountain for educational, recreational, historical, scientific, cultural, and other purposes, including motor vehicle and pedestrian and other non-motorized access. FWS established a Tribal Working Group with four local tribes and held public scoping meetings to address cultural concerns and to work through the process of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. FWS is addressing National Environmental Policy Act compliance by drafting a supplement to the 2008 Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Monument. Expanded public access will be controversial with tribes. FWS will continue outreach efforts to the tribes, media, and the public. A local news release is planned to alert the public that comment period is open. (Updated 03/28/2018)

On or around June 1, pending approval by the Department, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a notice of intent to prepare a draft programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS) addressing the potential impacts from four similar wind energy project habitat conservation plans in Hawaii. The HCPs were submitted to the Service in support of requests for permits authorizing the take of endangered or threatened species, under the Endangered Species Act. Due to similarities in the geography, impact, covered species and proposed mitigation measures between these four wind energy projects the Service has determined that a combined PEIS is the most efficient and comprehensive approach for considering the cumulative impacts of these actions on the human environment. When the PEIS publishes, outreach is planned to include local public notifications through the web and social media, and notifications to members of Congress in Hawaii, with targeted stakeholder outreach. (Updated 05/02/2018)

National Park Service

[UPDATE] On or after May 21, Death Valley National Park will start capturing and relocating up to 2,500 feral burros. Peaceful Valley Donkey Rescue (a nonprofit partner) will fund and carry out the roundups, test burros for disease, relocate them to holding facilities, and domesticate the animals for adoption. This is anticipated to generate public interest. The comms plan has been developed and shared with DOI. (5/16/2018).

On or about May 21, Saguaro National Park will close a two week public comment period for an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze impacts of the continued traditional harvesting of Saguaro Fruit and Cholla Buds by the Tohono O'odham Nation within Park boundaries. This EA is a requirement of the August 2016 NPS rule, Gathering of Certain Plants by Federally

Recognized Indian Tribes for Traditional Purposes (36 CFR 2.6), to establish a management framework for tribes to gather certain plant parts within NPS units for traditional purposes. The harvesting of Saguaro Fruit and Cholla Buds is a long standing tradition of the tribal members. (Updated 5/9/2018)

On May 21, Mount Rainier National Park will issue a news release announcing the availability of the Paradise Cellular Environmental Assessment (EA) Finding of No Significant Impact. The selected action will issue right-of-way permits to Verizon Wireless and T-Mobile, and provide conditional approval of AT&T's proposal to co-locate wireless communication facilities in the Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise. The cellular facilities will be concealed in the attic of the visitor center and will not involve the construction of towers. The NPS received 893 comments on the EA, with approximately 70% opposed to the service. Comments opposed to the proposal emphasized the protection of national parks and wildernesses from wireless signals, with many assuming a cell tower would be constructed. Those in favor emphasized safety, and the benefits of improved communication including convenience, coordination, education, and timely notification of hazards. The NPS determined that cellular service at Paradise will benefit the public by improving communication between the NPS and the public, and between park visitors, in the most intensely used and developed district of the park. (04/25/2018)

[NEW] By May 22, the NPS anticipates it will publish a proposed rule that would amend its regulations for sport hunting and trapping in national preserves in Alaska by removing regulatory provisions issued in 2015 that prohibit certain sport hunting practices that are otherwise permitted by the State of Alaska. The NPS will also prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) that will be available for comment and review for 30 days. A final rule is anticipated to be published later in 2018. (5/16/18).

[NEW] On May 22, the NPS will host a day long event at Main Interior to celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month and the publication of *Finding a Path Forward: Asian American Pacific Islander National Historic Landmarks Theme Study*. The planned activities include a workshop focused on Asian American and Pacific Islander preservation issues and a reception, with a keynote address by theme study editor Franklin Odo. Invited guests include members of Congress, non-profit partners, state and local representatives, authors and reviewers of the publication, as well as NPS and DOI staff and leadership. (05/16/2018).

[NEW] From May 22 to May 24, the Channel Islands National Park Robert J. Lagomarsino Visitor Center in Ventura Harbor will be closed to conduct necessary termite treatment. Arrangements have been made with the park concessioner, which is located near the visitor center, to provide visitor information during this short closure. The visitor center will reopen on May 25. (05/16/18).

On May 22, pending an updated wage determination from Department of Labor (DOL), Golden Gate National Recreation Area's General Agreement and associated draft leases for the long-term use of Pier 31 ½ as the Alcatraz ferry embarkation site will be considered by the San Francisco Port Commission for approval. This item was before the commission on February 27; however, commissioners continued the vote in response to concerns raised by labor unions about

the concession contract DOL wage determination and other labor-related issues. Concurrently the NPS is working on a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Sausalito (with notification to Congressman Jared Huffman's office (D-2-CA)) summarizing common understandings related to the potential expansion of ferry passenger service to Fort Baker described in the Alcatraz Island Passenger Ferry Service Prospectus. [Prospectus link](#) (Updated 5/2/2018)

[UPDATE] On May 23, Rock Creek Park will issue a prospectus and begin accepting proposals from vendors to provide equestrian and related services at the park's horse center in Washington D.C. under a new 10-year concession contract. Services sought include private horse boarding, therapeutic riding programs, instructional camps, guided trail rides and riding lessons. The closing date for proposals will be late June. (Updated 5/16/2018)

[UPDATE] On May 23, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area will meet with the Navajo Nation and representatives of their Department of Justice to discuss future operations at Antelope Point Marina and to continue the conversation on how to update the 1970 Quadrilateral Agreement, the 1994 Memorandum of Understanding, and 2003 Bridge Agreement – all of which expire in 2020. This meeting, originally planned for April 29, was rescheduled until after Navajo Nation was prepared to share its future intentions at Antelope Point. The Quadrilateral Agreement was signed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Reclamation, NPS, Secretary of the Interior, and Navajo Nation in 1970. The agreement provides a mechanism to plan development for commercial and recreational facilities along the shared park/Navajo Nation boundary. The 1994 MOU is signed by the NPS, BIA, and Navajo Nation to address the Development Concept Plan for Antelope Point and is based on the 1970 Quadrilateral Agreement. The 2003 Bridge Agreement is between the Navajo Nation and the NPS and details the administration of the Antelope Point area. This agreement also tiers off the 1970 Quadrilateral Agreement and 1994 MOU. (Updated 5/16/2018).

May 23 is the final day for internal review comments on the Yuma Crossing Quartermaster Depot Reconnaissance Survey. The NPS has prepared this reconnaissance survey at the request of Senator John McCain to evaluate the Yuma Quartermaster Depot in Yuma, Arizona as a potential unit of the National Park System. The purpose of a reconnaissance survey is to provide a preliminary evaluation of a resource and to recommend whether an authorization for a Special Resource Study fully evaluating the resource should be considered by the U.S. Congress. This reconnaissance survey report discusses national significance and presents preliminary findings on suitability, feasibility, and the need for direct NPS management. Additionally, in response to a special request from Senator McCain, the survey also provides a preliminary analysis of the interpretive approach outlined in a master plan prepared by the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area. (5/2/2018)

On May 23, the public comment period will close on Antietam National Battlefield's Visitor Access and Circulation Plan/Environmental Assessment (Plan/EA). The purpose of the Plan/EA is to evaluate the implementation of strategies to improve visitor access and circulation at the park. This Plan/EA also serves as an amendment to the 1992 Antietam National Battlefield General Management Plan, taking into account newly acquired lands not previously considered in the general management plan and evolving management decisions regarding the visitor center

and several Battlefield tour roads. <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/ANTICirculationPlan> (Updated 04/25/2018)

[NEW] By May 25, pending final approval, the NPS anticipates releasing the final Butterfield Overland National Historic Trail Special Resource Study. (05/16/2018).

On May 25, public comments for the National Mall and Memorial Parks' renewal of two National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits are due to the EPA. The permit for the World War II Memorial allows for stormwater discharge from the memorial pools and fountains into the Tidal Basin; the permit for the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool allows for the discharge of treated water to and from the Tidal Basin. If no substantive comments are received by the EPA (and none are expected), the permits will go into effect by June 24. (05/02/2018)

By May 25, a spending plan will be developed and submitted to the Department for approval for the new Historic Preservation Fund grant program subgrant program (yet to be named). Five million in physical preservation funding was passed as part of the FY 2018 budget to grant "block grant" funding to organizations that will subgrant funding to historic properties of national, State, and local significance listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Development of a spending plan was mandated in the appropriations language. Preservation partners may have questions about the stage of development of this program. (Updated 5/9/2018)

On May 26, Lassen Volcanic National Park will close its public comment period on alternatives for a Wilderness Stewardship Plan and Environmental Assessment (EA). The plan will provide a comprehensive strategy to ensure the preservation and enhancement of wilderness character in the park's designated wilderness and backcountry areas. The proposed action seeks to maintain unconfined recreational use while identifying and preserving resource values that the public seeks in this setting. (Updated 5/2/2018)

On or after May 28, the Tule Lake Unit of the WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument will open a 30-day public comment period on the Tule Lake Jail Restoration Project Environmental Assessment. The proposed action would fully restore the exterior of the building, remove the freestanding shed and chain-link fence, restore or rehabilitate the jail interior, and would also improve accessibility to and within the building. (05/02/2018)

On May 29, Golden Gate National Recreation Area is expected to release a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a competitive business opportunity to establish a waterfront community center at the Fort Baker Historic Boat Shop and Marina as an affordable recreational and gathering place. The purpose of the RFQ is to identify both private- and public-sector entities interested in operating the facility, which is currently operated by the U.S. Air Force as a military recreation facility open to the public. The NPS is seeking a long-term lease that will enable an offeror to make necessary investments in historic rehabilitation of deteriorating facilities, and the provision of public services and programs at the site. The park has kept the USAF informed throughout the lead up to this announcement, and they have express interest in participating in the RFQ process. (Updated 04/25/2018).

On or after May 29, the NPS will release the Tule Lake Unit of World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument General Management Plan and Environmental Assessment Finding

of No Significant Impact (FONSI) to the public. The FWS co-manages two of three parcels that comprise the Tule Lake Unit, and the FWS has concurred with issuing the FONSI. The selected action outlines the long-term management and development for the unit established in May 2008 by President Bush. (04/25/2018)

[UPDATE] By June 1, pending additional changes and corrections to contract language, the NPS expects review of the Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve Cruise Ship Prospectus by the WASO SOL office to be completed. The NPS will then release a prospectus for five concession contracts to provide cruise ship services at Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve. Two of the contracts are set aside for the two historic operators identified through the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) legislation. Cruise ship services contracts have been awarded since 1980 on a 10 year basis. New contract terms are similar to previous contracts, shaped in accordance with both Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve-specific legislation and NPS law and policy. Contracts will be awarded by late October, 2019. (Updated 5/16/2018)

[NEW] Between June 1-30, construction on Maryland's Purple Line will begin with installing temporary bridge structures along the Baltimore-Washington Parkway during light rail construction. Permitting for the project is in final review. These bridges will span all northbound and southbound lanes on the parkway while existing bridges are extended over the rail line during the next 18 months. (5/16/2018)

On or before June 1, the Missouri Department of Agriculture will issue its findings relative to the improper use of herbicides by a private contractor to the NPS on NPS lands at Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site. The over application occurred in the Summer and Fall of 2016 and its effect became evident in the Spring of 2017. Some 170 trees show signs of mortality and stress. The contractor has been cooperative to date and has indicated willingness to make restitution for damages. The NPS is working to evaluate the best approach to restore resources. (Updated 05/02/2018)

By June 1, Denali National Park and Preserve will publish the Denali Long Range Transportation Plan. The plan evaluates the current conditions of transportation, considers possible future scenarios, and presents future desired conditions and possible funding strategies. It is a document that presents the park's vision for the next 20 years as it evaluates multiple aspects of the its transportation system ranging from bus transit to airstrips and trail connectivity, with particular attention given to the Denali Park Road. (5/9/2018)

Between June 1-15, Golden Gate National Recreation Area (pending Departmental approval of NOA) expects to issue a Record of Decision for the Vista Grande Drainage Basin Improvement Project Environmental Impact Report /Environmental Impact Statement prepared in cooperation with the City of Daly City, California. This project would allow Daly City to take project actions at Fort Funston to address storm-related flooding in the Vista Grande Drainage Basin. [PEPC link](#) (04/04/18).

On June 1, San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park will implement a new \$10 permit fee for anchoring vessels overnight in Aquatic Park Cove. The permit process will use

Recreation.gov, and will provide boaters an additional convenient way to obtain information about anchoring-out rules and regulations, and reserve a mooring in advance of their visit to the park. The implementation had been delayed due to complications involving a criminal case against a local mariner. (5/9/2018)

[UPDATE] On June 2, construction crews will begin temporary stabilization repairs on Arlington Memorial Bridge. The project start was delayed to accommodate the Rolling Thunder special event over Memorial Day weekend. This repair work is designed to keep the bridge open to traffic during its full rehabilitation (beginning in fall 2018). Work crews will repair bridge deck supports in the drawbridge span and the road deck in the westbound roadway. This work will require intermittent single lane closures on the bridge beginning after Memorial Day weekend. A press release will be coordinated with NPS Washington office and a comms plan will be developed with DOI and NPS for the full rehabilitation. (Updated 05/16/18).

15-60 Day Look-Ahead

[NEW] On June 14, the Federal Trustees of the Deepwater Horizon (DWH) Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) Trustee Council will have a face-to-face meeting to discuss a variety of issues, including Monitoring and Adaptive Management (philosophy and process), responsibilities of Federal lead, streamlining NEPA and other environmental compliance and Trustee Council programmatic update. The meeting will be held in the Main Interior Building in Washington, DC.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

On or around June 8, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a final determination on the proposal to list five Sri Lankan tarantula species as endangered. The species are in decline due to ongoing habitat loss and degradation, and the cumulative effects of these and other threats. This action is not expected to be controversial. Planned outreach will include web updates. (Updated 05/02/2018)

On or around June 14, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a proposal to delist the Colorado butterfly plant due to recovery. This species is located in Colorado, Nebraska and Wyoming. This action is not expected to be opposed. Outreach plans include a national news release and an if-asked FAQ. Key stakeholders include private landowners, F.E. Warren Air Force Base, the City of Fort Collins, Colorado, and BLM. (Updated 05/09/2018)

[NEW] On or around June 15, FWS will announce the approval of nearly \$3.8 million in grants for 28 projects throughout the Americas as part of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act grant program. Exact date and award amount are not yet determined. Planned outreach includes a national news release, emails and phone calls to congressional offices and stakeholders. (05/16/2018)

On or around June 15, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a final action designating critical habitat for three plant species on Hawaii island and is correcting the maps for existing designations for an additional four species. FWS intends to exclude lands owned or managed by the Queen Liliuokalani Trust, the Department of Hawaiian Homelands, and other private landowners under 4(b)(2) of the Act. This action is not controversial. Interested stakeholders include the state of Hawaii and multiple state agencies, the county of Hawaii and various private landowners. Outreach includes a regional news release, social media, emails and phone calls to congressional offices and stakeholders mentioned above. (Updated 04/18/2018)

In response to a petition to delist the species, on or around June 15, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a proposal to reclassify the American burying beetle from an endangered species to a threatened species. While the primary threats to the species have been ameliorated, ongoing threats remain. FWS will also propose a rule under section 4(d) tailoring prohibitions to those most likely to harm the American burying beetle and its habitats. The American burying beetle currently occurs in Arkansas, Kansas, Massachusetts, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Dakota and Texas. This finding will likely be opposed by the Center for Biological Diversity and Center for American Burying Beetle Conservation. It is also likely to be opposed by the petitioners, American Stewards of Liberty, the Independent Petroleum Association of America, the Texas Public Policy Foundation, and Dr. Steven W. Carothers, as they petitioned us to delist, not downlist the species. Outreach plans include a regional news release and congressional notifications. A communications plan has been drafted and will be shared with the appropriate offices. (Updated 05/09/2018)

On or around June 15, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a final determination on a proposed rule to list the hyacinth macaw as threatened. To address concerns raised by the pet trade industry, FWS is including a 4(d) rule that will allow for the import and export of parrots that meet certain criteria, as well as interstate commerce in this species without a permit. Stakeholders include the bird breeding community, Conservation International, The Nature Conservancy, and World Wildlife Fund. Planned outreach will include a national news release and web updates. (Updated 05/02/2018)

On or around June 22, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a proposed revision of the existing non-essential experimental population (NEP) designation of red wolves in North Carolina under section 10(j) of the Endangered Species Act. FWS anticipates opposition from North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC), which has officially requested the termination of this NEP, the North Carolina Farm Bureau, and most private landowners with wolves using their property. Although national and local environmental groups will support the continuation of a NEP in North Carolina, they will likely oppose any alternative short of full protections under the Act and the proposed reduction in the size of the NEP. Interested stakeholders other than NCWRC include Defenders of Wildlife, the Red Wolf Coalition, Red Wolf Species Survival Plan cooperators, and other non-governmental organizations that support red wolf conservation. Some of these stakeholders have challenged the current red wolf program in court, and it is important to our defense of that case that we meet the target *Federal Register* date with this notice, as it will support an argument that the actions being challenged are about to be mooted out by this action. Outreach includes a news release, social media, emails and phone calls. (05/09/2018)

[NEW] On June 29, FWS will hold the First Day of Sale ceremony for the 2018-2019 Federal and Junior Duck Stamps at Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World in Hanover, Md. The event begins at 11 a.m. and is free and open to the public. Both the Federal and Junior Duck Stamp artists will be available to sign stamps, and the U.S. Postal Service will have a special cancellation for collectors. Planned outreach includes a national news release, emails and phone calls to congressional offices and stakeholders. (05/16/2018)

On or around June 29, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a proposal to designate a nonessential experimental population of the California condor in northern California and Oregon to contribute to meeting recovery goals for the species. This action is being taken in concert with the National Park Service and the Yurok Tribe in support of recovery goals for the condor. The primary state agencies, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and California Department of Parks and Recreation, have expressed interest in condor recovery through participation in an MOU. There is a possibility that there may be some localized opposition to condor reintroduction in the area, but we do not foresee concerted opposition given California's action banning the use of lead ammunition effective in 2019. FWS is considering how to address potential conflicts with logging, transmission lines and wind turbines through the 10(j) rule. Planned outreach will include a regional news release and notification to stakeholders, tribes and members of Congress. Target date for submitting to the *Federal Register* is June 29, 2018. (05/09/2018)

On or around June 29, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a final listing determination for the meltwater lednian stonefly and the western glacier stonefly, located in Montana and Wyoming. Interested stakeholders include WildEarth Guardians, Xerces Society, Center for Biological Diversity and the states of Montana and Wyoming. The State of Wyoming has expressed opposition to the listing. Planned outreach will include a regional news release, web updates, and congressional/stakeholder notifications. (Updated 05/09/2018)

[NEW] On or around June 29, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a proposal to delist the running buffalo clover, located in Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. Outreach plans include a news release, social media, fact sheet, and FAQs. Stakeholders include members of Congress and recovery partners including state agencies in the range states. (05/16/2018)

[UPDATE] On or around June 30, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* a final determination on a proposed reclassification of the southern Selkirk Mountains population of woodland caribou (endangered) by defining the entire Southern Mountain Caribou population as a distinct population segment (DPS) and listing it as endangered. In 2012, FWS designated critical habitat for the southern Selkirk Mountains population, which will remain unchanged. Several non-governmental organizations (International Fund for Wildlife, Kettle Range Conservation Group, Selkirk Conservation Alliance, Kootenai Environmental Alliance, Center for Biological Diversity, Idaho Conservation League) will likely view our final determination favorably. The Pacific Legal Foundation (and Bonner County as represented by PLF) is likely to challenge the determination. Idaho may view the listing of the DPS and endangered

determination unfavorably. Outreach includes a regional news release, social media, emails and phone calls. (Updated 05/16/2018)

[NEW] On or around July 1, FWS plans to send to the *Federal Register* 90-day findings on petitions to list the Dixie Valley toad and Oregon vesper sparrow, and delist the western distinct population segment (DPS) of the yellow-billed cuckoo. These findings are the first step in a longer process and tend not to get significant media attention; however, for substantial 90-day findings, this action might be the first time stakeholders become aware that FWS is assessing the status of a species. The finding on the petition to delist the western DPS of the yellow-billed cuckoo will receive attention from numerous stakeholders including the petitioners and plaintiffs that have filed a notice of intent to sue FWS for failure to designate critical habitat for the species. All stakeholders will have ample opportunity to provide input into our eventual 12-month findings. A national news bulletin and congressional notifications are planned. (05/16/2018)

National Park Service

[NEW] On June 4, the NPS will initiate the DOI clearance process for the Olympic National Park Goat Management EIS record of decision (ROD). The Final EIS was released on May 4, 2018. The ROD approval process is mandated by the Deputy Secretary's NEPA Document Clearance Process memorandum. Step 6 of the process states that following the close of the Final EIS notice period (30 days), a one-page notice shall be sent to the Review Team, and if there are no further inquiries within 3 business days, the delegated SES member responsible for the decision may sign and approve the ROD. Because the new process was mandated after the Final EIS was approved for release, earlier steps in the process were not undertaken. As a result, the NPS will be submitting a draft ROD to the review team on or about May 16 to inquire whether any member of the Review Team would like a briefing prior to initiation of step 6. (05/16/18)

[NEW] Between June 4-11, Golden Gate National Recreation Area is expected to release a prospectus for a new concession contract to provide food and beverage services to the public under a concession contract at Stinson Beach. The contract would also authorize equipment rental and convenience item sales. The 10-year contract is set to begin in March 2019. The existing concessioner is a "Preferred Offeror" who is eligible to exercise a right of preference to the award of the new contract. (05/16/2018).

On June 4, Yosemite National Park will close its public scoping period for the Big Oak Flat Visitor Contact Station and Emergency Services Facilities Project. The purpose of this project is to improve the overall visitor experience, improve restroom facilities to reduce wait times, parking facilities, and visitor safety and wayfinding signage. It will also increase accessibility and correct long-standing building maintenance issues. (5/9/2018)

[NEW] On June 4, the opening ceremony for the Ocean Plastics Lab (OPL) will occur on the National Mall. This exhibit will be on display through June 17 and is an international traveling exhibit by the European Commission, KDM/German Marine Research Consortium (Konsortium Deutsche Meeresforschung), and other partners, which communicates the role of science in

solving problems with plastic debris in the ocean. The German Embassy and NOAA are coordinating the event. (5/16/18).

[UPDATE] On June 6, Death Valley National Park will hold a reopening and ribbon-cutting event to celebrate the completion of the Dantes View rehabilitation project. The Fund for People in Parks and Death Valley Natural History Association donated \$273,000 (about half of the construction cost). Dantes View is an extremely popular public viewpoint that provides a panoramic view of most of the park. This project corrects significant safety and accessibility problems. (Updated 05/16/2018).

On June 7, the 30-day public scoping period for an Invasive Vegetation Management Plan/Environmental Assessment at Grand Teton National Park will close. The purpose of the planning effort is to develop a successful strategy to prevent additional establishment and spread of invasive plant species and to restore native plant communities through prevention, control and restoration. (5/9/2018)

On June 13, Channel Islands National Park anticipates issuing a joint news release with the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians announcing the transfer of human remains to the tribe that have been undergoing Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) review under 43 CFR 10.7 (Disposition of unclaimed human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony). **(Embargoed until public announcement)** (5/9/2018)

On June 14, the U.S. Mint will release the America the Beautiful Quarters Program coin honoring Voyageurs National Park. A ceremony will be held in International Falls, Minnesota. (04/04/18).

[UPDATE] Through June 15, a section of an off-road vehicle (ORV) route near Cape Point at Cape Hatteras National Seashore may close if nearby nesting piping plover and American oystercatcher eggs hatch. Cape Point, a popular fishing and shelling location that became known as "Shelly Island" during summer 2017, closes temporarily almost every summer through the end of August to allow for several species of shorebirds to complete nesting. Although Cape Point may close temporarily, the Seashore expects that the majority of ORV routes — more than 20 miles — will be accessible. (Updated 5/16/2018)

On June 15, Yosemite National Park's Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias will reopen to the public, following a 3-year \$40 million project funded through the NPS and Yosemite Conservancy matching funds. A new parking lot and welcome center has been constructed at the South Entrance, a shuttle bus will take visitors to the big trees, a handicap accessible boardwalk has been constructed, trails have been improved, and new restrooms have been installed. The dedication ceremony to mark the completion of the project is slated for June 14. <https://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/mariposagrove.htm> (03/07/2018)

On June 18, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park will host King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia of Spain for a tour of Mission San Jose. The City of San Antonio Office of International Relations is coordinating the park tour as part of a three-day visit by the royal family to commemorate the Tri-centennial of the founding of San Antonio, Texas, as a Spanish mission in

1718. A public announcement about the visit will be made at a later date. Park employees involved in the planning effort have signed a modified confidentiality agreement (reviewed by our solicitor) with the City of San Antonio to coordinate planning efforts and keep the visit confidential. (*Close Hold*) (05/02/2018)

On June 26, the Acadia National Park Draft Transportation Plan and EIS public comment period will close. The comment period is open concurrently with the published EPA Notice of Availability. Public comment will be received through the PEPC website, standard mail, and during Open House events. Press interest in this public comment period is expected to be very high. The communication plan has been shared with NPS Comms. (05/02/2018)

Until June 30, State Historic Preservation Offices and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices may apply for the remaining funding from the FY 2018 Annual HPF grants that is noticed on Grants.gov. (Updated 5/9/2018)

In June, the Old Santa Fe Trail Office's stucco repair and rehabilitation project for the historic building will begin and will be closed to the public during construction. NPS staff currently working in the Old Santa Fe Trail Building will temporarily relocate to another office space in Santa Fe while the repairs take place. Historic artifacts and museum archives from the building have also been temporarily relocated and stored in appropriate facilities. The work is scheduled to take 12-18 months to complete. (Updated 5/9/2018)

July 3 is the deadline for the Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) to submit a nomination to the Keeper of the Ch'u'itnu Historic District Traditional Cultural Property nomination submitted by the Native Village of Tyonek (NVT). On April 4, 2018, the Alaska Historical Commission (Commission) approved the nomination submitted by the NVT, a federally recognized tribe that has lived within the proposed district for many generations. The District encompasses ca. 109,000 acres of land within Alaska's Ch'u'tnu River watershed approximately 90 miles west of Anchorage. The nomination is opposed by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources as well as some private organizations/commercial entities. An appeal can only be submitted to the Keeper by the Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), and only after it has been reviewed by the Alaska Historical Commission. It is the Keeper's understanding that despite approval of the nomination by the Commission, the SHPO remains strongly opposed to it. Failure of the SHPO to meet the 90 day/ July 3 deadline will likely result in the filing of a third appeal by NVT directly to the Keeper to review the nomination and list the property in the NR. (04/18/18)

By July 15, Olympic National Park's 2017 Natural Resource Condition Assessment (NRCA) will be published as a National Park Service Resource Report. This report is jointly funded by the USGS and the NPS NRCA Program. A joint NPS-USGS news release will be issued announcing the report. (Updated 5/2/2018)

Between July 19-31, the American Indian Movement (AIM) will hold its 27th annual Sundance at Pipestone National Monument. The Sundance is the central sacred ceremony for the Lakota Tribes. On April 2, the NPS received a proposal from AIM to improve the grounds used for the Sundance. The NPS began working through the compliance process for the proposed

improvements and has introduced possible alternatives to meet AIM's needs. (Updated 04/11/18).

By July 30, Death Valley National Park anticipates releasing the final Scotty's Castle Flood Rehabilitation Environmental Assessment and FONSI. This document analyzes repair work planned for historic structures, the cultural landscape, utilities, parking, and walkways to recover from damage from a flash flood in October 2015. The historic district is scheduled to reopen to the public in 2020. [PEPC link](#) (Updated 5/9/2018)

In August 2018, at Death Valley National Park, reconstruction work is scheduled to start and be completed by May 2019 that will allow reopening of the northeast entrance to the park and restore public access to Scotty's Castle after massive damage from flooding in October 2015. Construction dates will be confirmed after release of the final Bonnie Clare Road Reconstruction Environmental Assessment and FONSI. [PEPC link](#) (Updated 5/9/2018)

Awareness

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

[NEW] The week of May 14, FWS will release the final compatibility determinations (CD) for Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. In accordance with the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act, prior to allowing a new or continuing public use or activity on a refuge, FWS must determine if the use is compatible with refuge purposes. Based on comments received during the 2016 review period of four compatibility determinations for commercial activities on the refuge and further comments from the March 6 through April 6, 2018 public comment period on draft revisions, refuge management finalized the compatibility determinations. This is controversial because the CDs re-evaluate the following uses of the refuge: commercial fishing floats, commercially guided wildlife/wildlands observation, guided sport fishing and guided waterfowl hunting. (05/16/2018)

[NEW] On May 8, FWS received a petition from Defenders of Wildlife and the Center for Biological Diversity to list the dunes sagebrush lizard as a threatened or endangered species and designate critical habitat. FWS will review the petition to determine whether or not it provides substantial information warranting a rigorous status review. This is considered controversial because in 2017 there was an unprecedented surge in frac-sand mining in west Texas, which complicated the implementation of the Texas Conservation Plan, one of two pre-listing candidate conservation programs established for the lizard when it was considered for listing in 2011. The surge in frac-sand mining increased the concern in relation to threatened species. (05/16/2018)

[NEW] On May 1, the Kansas Farm Bureau, Kansas Groundwater Management District #5, and FWS hosted a tour of Quivira NWR. About 25 people participated in the tour including U.S. Representative Ron Estes and congressional office staff for U.S. Senators Pat Roberts and Jerry Moran, and U.S. Representative Roger Marshall. In addition to local agricultural producers, staff from the Kansas Farm Bureau, the Water Protection Association for Central Kansas, and Kansas Department of Agriculture Water Resources, also participated in the tour. The tour focused on water related issues, including watershed management and monitoring. Discussions highlighted

the importance of the refuge and agricultural activities at a local scale as well as the landscape level. (05/16/2018)

[NEW] Kilauea volcano began erupting last week on the Big Island (Hawaii Island). All FWS employees are safe, as are all government facilities at Hakalau Forest NWR. Two employees' homes are threatened by the lava flow at this time. (05/16/2018)

[NEW] FWS completed a multi-state, multi-region, formal consultation for Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's and Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement's proposed oil and gas leasing, exploration, development, production and decommissioning, and all related activities in the Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf within existing leased areas and those areas proposed for future leasing. The Biological Opinion covers the following for a 10-year period starting on April 20, 2018: All oil and gas leases issued as a result of sales; exploration, development, production and decommissioning activities under all other oil and gas leases, regardless of the date of issuance of the lease; and geological/geophysical permits issued. Potential impacts to eighteen federally listed species occurring in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida were addressed in the BO. (05/16/2018)

[NEW] On April 27, FWS signed the final after-the-fact biological opinion on the U.S. Coast Guard's emergency response to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. The biological opinion outlined impacts to nine listed species and five designated critical habitats, and outlined the close coordination with the Coast Guard during the response that helped to minimize further harm. (05/16/2018)

[NEW] On May 19 and 22, Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee NWR will hold public workshops to discuss opening the refuge to more public recreational activities. Some of these activities may include camping, walking leashed dogs, creating more trails for hiking, biking and canoeing, building a fishing pier, and hosting outdoor weddings and yoga. Suggested uses that have generated some controversy include expanded hunting for alligators and waterfowl, and airboating. The workshops are in response to requests from DOI Secretary Zinke and the South Florida Water Management District. (05/16/2018)

[UPDATE] Dilution flows of about 3,000 cfs were released from Upper Klamath Lake on May 8 as the result of the discovery that nearly half of all juvenile Coho salmon are infected with a parasite. Increased flows cause fewer disease spores per liter so that the infection isn't as thick. In addition, flows cool the warm, slow moving river temps and parasites like low, slow, warm water. Flows also push the juvie fish downstream to ocean faster. If disease levels do not improve, flows will likely continue through most of May. A 2013 biological opinion and a court order from 2017 specify these flows shall not result in adverse impacts to listed suckers in Upper Klamath Lake. The flows were implemented in coordination with; National Marine Fisheries Service; Yurok, Karuk, Hoopa Valley, and Klamath Tribes; Klamath Project water users and PacifiCorp. (Updated 05/16/2018)

[UPDATE] FWS is in the process of incorporating and addressing public comments into a Final Environmental Assessment (EA) for a bald eagle incidental take permit issued to Garrett Construction Company, LLC ("Garrett") and will make a final permit decision by May 18. On

February 6, FWS Region 6 Migratory Birds originally issued the permit, and on February 13, Front Range Nesting Bald Eagles Studies filed a Petition for Review of Agency Action, challenging certain actions associated with FWS' issuance of the Garrett permit and alleging that those actions violated the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA"), the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and the Administrative Procedure Act. On April 17, FWS informed the court that it was conducting additional analyses through an EA examining potential impacts of issuing a bald eagle incidental take permit to Garrett. On April 23, FWS suspended the February 6 permit and released a Draft EA for a seven-day public comment period. (Updated 05/16/2018)

National Park Service

[NEW] On May 14, the Intermountain Regional Director signed the FONSI for the Sperry Chalet, Next 100 years EA. The EA includes rebuilding Glacier National Park's Sperry Chalet Dormitory Building, which burned in the 2017 Sprague Fire, at its original site within the original stone masonry walls. Critical updates will include meeting current building codes where applicable, and improvements to life safety features such as seismic bracing and fire resistant materials. Construction will be completed in two phases, proposed for the summers of 2018 and 2019. Cost considerations and other unforeseen events or other conditions could affect the construction schedule. The park received 72 comment letters during the EA review period; 58 supported the park's preferred alternative. One supported rebuilding the chalet in an alternate location, and six supported the No Action alternative. Seven letters contained substantive comments that were responded to in the FONSI. (05/16/2018).

[UPDATE] Due to multiple fires within the same unit of Big Cypress National Preserve, the Avian Complex will now include and report on the Buzzard, Flamingo, Curlew, Vulture and Caracara fires. The current wildfires in the Big Cypress National Preserve, the Southern Area Gold Incident Management Team assumed command of the Avian Complex and any new fires on the Preserve and the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge. Closure orders are in effect to maintain public safety. The Curlew Fire, located south of Loop Road in the southeast corner of the preserve, is currently 1,062 acres in size and 0% contained. Two camps at the heel of the fire have been protected, and no values at risk lie in its immediate path. The fire continued its growth to the west into Everglades National Park. The Buzzard Fire is approximately 19,990 acres and is 40% contained. The Flamingo Fire is approximately 3,840 acres in size and 0% contained. Currently, 91 people are assigned to the fires including 3 helicopters and 3 air tankers. (05/16/2018)

[NEW] On May 1, Everglades National Park (EVER) completed National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance on an *expansion* of its longstanding Python Removal Authorized Agent Program and approved this expansion under a Documented Categorical Exclusion. The expansion will permit new methods and an increased number of personnel to be involved in the program, including use of Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) trained contractors, who will be authorized to use firearms in the park under restrictions. Public announcement of the expansion is embargoed pending EVER and FWC's ability to complete related agreements, planning, contracts, training and a synchronized outreach plan. (05/16/2018).

[NEW] On May 16, staff from the NPS and DOI Solicitor's Office met with representatives of Montgomery County, Maryland, to review the draft Cooperative Agreement for Glen Echo Park. The new agreement will replace the 15 year-old agreement that expires June 7. A new agreement will set the long-term framework for roles and responsibilities between the NPS, Montgomery County, and non-profit partner Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture. Senator Chris Van Hollen supports the partnership and is tracking the agreement renewal. (05/16/2018).

[NEW] On May 17, Isle Royale National Park's partner, Michigan Technological University, issued a press release with results from the 60th annual wolf-moose winter study; a research project that is conducted in close partnership with the NPS. This year's results confirmed that the wolf population remains at two, and the moose population is approximately 1,475. The Record of Decision for the final Wolf Plan/EIS is in the Department for review and approval. The preferred alternative calls the introduction of 20 - 30 wolves over 3 years. Public interest in the plan is high. (5/16/2018)

ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INDIAN AFFAIRS

Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Hearings, and Travel

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs (PDAS) John Tahsuda will be on travel with the Secretary this week.

Acting Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Director Darryl LaCounte will be in the office this week.

Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) Director Tony Dearman will be in the Albuquerque, New Mexico, office this week for the BIE Strategic Plan management team meeting.

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary – Management George Bearpaw will be attending the Tribal-Interior Budget Council meeting on May 23-24 but otherwise will be in the office this week.

Immediate Announcements and Actions (within the next 14 days)

Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs

May 23-24 will be the Tribal-Interior Budget Council (TIBC) meeting at the Washington Plaza Hotel in Washington, DC.

On May 31, PDAS Tahsuda will host a Tribal consultation in Rapid City, South Dakota, on potential revisions to the fee-to-trust regulations at 25 CFR Part 151. A Dear Tribal Leader letter was distributed on May 1.

[UPDATED] The Dear Tribal Leader letter announcing Tribal consultations on the DOI Reorganization is with Exec Sec pending final approval for distribution. The consultation series includes sessions in Jackson, Mississippi; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; New Buffalo, Michigan;

Billings, Montana; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Jackson, California; Cabazon, California; and Juneau, Alaska.

[UPDATED] On June 3 and 4, PDAS Tahsuda will be hosting three listening sessions at the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Mid-Year Conference in Kansas City, Missouri. The Dear Tribal Leader letter announcing the sessions is in the surname process. The listening sessions will address the DOI Reorganization, potential revisions to fee-to-trust regulations at 25 CFR Part 151, and law enforcement. There will also be a joint BIE and U.S. Department of Education listening session on set-aside funding for BIE.

Bureau of Indian Affairs

[NEW] On May 22 - 23, Office of Equal Opportunity and Civil Rights Programs will be conducting Civil Treatment for Leaders and Civil Treatment for Employees training at the Eastern Regional Office in Nashville, Tennessee.

[UPDATED] Before May 31, BIA anticipates releasing the final guidance for Tribes on how to conduct background checks of foster care parents and employees under the Native American Children's Safety Act (NACSA). The guidance is currently in surname and must be issued by the statutory deadline of June 3.

Bureau of Indian Education

May 21 is the deadline for comments on the Bureau of Indian Affairs' proposed rule updating the regulation regarding when Indian students are eligible for benefits of education under the Johnson-O'Malley Act (JOM), per the Federal Register notice published on March 21, 2018. PDAS Tahsuda and BIE Director Dearman consulted with Navajo Nation at their request on April 25.

May 21-25, BIE will host a strategic planning meeting on Goals 4 through 6 in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

May 22-23, a Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI) Engineering faculty member will attend a NASA-NSF-NIFA Symposium in Washington, DC.

On May 25, SIPI will conduct focus groups of current students to determine the impact of online and evening/weekend course offerings on student enrollment patterns. This will provide the basis for a market study to determine the feasibility of future online and evening/weekend college.

May 30-June 2, SIPI's IC-Mars project lead and four students will attend the TECHLAV Annual Meeting in North Carolina University AT&T in Greensboro, North Carolina.

[NEW] May 31-June 2, BIE will conduct a Riverside Indian School, College Readiness visit at SIPI to support the enrollment management plan to prepare 7th to 12th graders towards college readiness.

On June 3, BIE will host a joint listening session with U.S. Department of Education at the NCAI mid-year conference in Kansas City, Missouri, addressing set-aside funding for BIE.

15-60 Day Look-Ahead

Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs

[UPDATED] The week of June 4, PDAS Tahsuda plans to attend several sessions at the NCAI Mid-Year Conference in Kansas City, Missouri.

[NEW] June 12 is the tentatively scheduled date for a Tribal listening session on the DOI reorganization at Mississippi Choctaw in Choctaw, Mississippi. The Dear Tribal Leader letter announcing the session is still in surname.

[NEW] June 14 is the tentatively scheduled date for a Tribal listening session on the DOI reorganization in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The Dear Tribal Leader letter announcing the session is still in surname.

[NEW] June 19 is the tentatively scheduled date for a Tribal consultation session on the DOI reorganization at Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, in New Buffalo, Michigan. The Dear Tribal Leader letter announcing the session is still in surname.

[NEW] June 21 is the tentatively scheduled date for a Tribal consultation session on the DOI reorganization in Billings, Montana. The Dear Tribal Leader letter announcing the session is still in surname.

[NEW] June 25 is the tentatively scheduled date for a Tribal consultation session on the DOI reorganization in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The Dear Tribal Leader letter announcing the session is still in surname.

[NEW] June 28 is the tentatively scheduled date for a Tribal consultation session on the DOI reorganization at Jackson Rancheria in Jackson, California. The Dear Tribal Leader letter announcing the session is still in surname.

[NEW] July 23 is the tentatively scheduled date for a Tribal consultation session on the DOI reorganization at Morongo in Cabazon, California. The Dear Tribal Leader letter announcing the session is still in surname.

[NEW] August 2 is the tentatively scheduled date for a Tribal consultation session on the DOI reorganization in Juneau, Alaska. The Dear Tribal Leader letter announcing the session is still in surname.

Bureau of Indian Affairs

[NEW] On June 12-13, the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) will host a meeting and field tour in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The purpose of meeting is to view, understand and build from on the ground success that supports WFLC priorities and the goals of the Cohesive Strategy.

June 30 is the deadline for written comments on whether and how to revise BIA's fee-to-trust regulations at 25 CFR 151, per the Dear Tribal Leader letter dated February 15, 2018.

Bureau of Indian Education

July 1-7, the Native Youth Community Adaptation and Leadership Congress (NYCALC), an interagency effort of more than eight Federal agencies, will support 100 Tribal students in a program to promote conservation on Tribal lands and workforce development.

The BIE Advisory Board for Exceptional Children originally scheduled for May 16-18 in Choctaw, Mississippi, is being rescheduled to a later date to ensure that sufficient advance notice is provided to Board members and the public.

Throughout June and July, BIE's Associate Deputy Director for Bureau-Operated Schools will host regional trainings for BIE-funded school staff and Title V staff:

- June 10-15 – Chemawa Indian School, Salem, Oregon
- June 17-22 – Bloomington, Minnesota
- June 24-29 – Cherokee, North Carolina
- July 9-13 – Flandreau, South Dakota
- July 16-20 – Phoenix, Arizona
- July 23-27 – Bismarck, North Dakota

[NEW] July 14-20, an instructor (Chef Leonard Bailey) and five SIPI Culinary Arts students will attend the 2018 American Culinary Federation (ACF) National Training in New Orleans, LA. Chef Bailey is part of a national competition for ACF Chef Educator of the year.

Awareness

Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs

The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs marked up and passed out of Committee, S. 2515, the PROGRESS Act, amending Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act for Self Determination and Self Governance to provide Tribes with greater flexibility to efficiently tailor, consolidate and administer federal programs for their communities.

Bureau of Indian Affairs

[UPDATED] In the week ending May 8, there were 134 new wildfires on trust lands. Firefighters declared 10 fires extinguished and 17 fires contained. The remaining 106 uncontained wildfires were burning at 18 BIA agencies. Seventeen wildfires were greater than one acre in size and the remaining 87 fires were 0.1 acre or less.

A proposed rule to revise regulations addressing rights-of-way on Indian land (25 CFR 169) to exempt Federal, State, local, and Tribal governments from bonding and security requirements is in surname and is expected to be ready for publication before the end of May.

[UPDATED] Fee-to-Trust Completed Cases: For the time period of May 2 to 9, 2018, BIA completed five land acquisition cases, taking a total of 268.257 acres into trust for four Tribes. To date for calendar year 2018, 114 cases have been completed totaling approximately 8,437 acres. Since 2009, a total of approximately 662,144 acres have been conveyed into trust.

Bureau of Indian Education

[NEW] Last week, the Acting Associate Deputy Director for Bureau-Operated Schools Gloria Yepa held a conference call concerning denial of related services to students at San Felipe Elementary School. The basis of the denial of services was not having a contract for services in place. In addition, technical assistance and guidance were provided to staff at Havasupai Elementary School, Flandreau Indian School, and San Felipe Elementary School concerning student special education services and disciplinary process for students with disabilities.

[NEW] May 4-7, Borrego Pass School closed due to unsanitary conditions in the kitchen.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY INSULAR AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Hearings, and Travel (May 20 – May 26, 2018)

Travel

AS Domenech has no planned travel.

Office of Insular Affairs Director Pula has no planned travel.

Office of International Affairs Director Senhadji has no planned travel.

Oceans Program Coordinator Johnson has no planned travel.

Insular Affairs

Compact Trust Fund Meetings for Micronesia and the Marshall Islands: On Monday, May 21, OIA Director Pula will chair the quarterly meeting of the Compact Trust Fund Committees for both the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia. Trust Fund Committee members from the USG and FSM and RMI Governments will meet over telephone.

Budget Consultative Meetings for 2020 U.S. Financial Assistance under the Compact to Micronesia: During the week of May 21, OIA grants managing teams will holding budget consultations in all four states of the Federated States of Micronesia for 2020 budget planning for U.S. financial assistance under the Compact.

Pacific Islands Close Up Students Visit Interior: On May 23, 140 students from American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands and the freely associated states of Micronesia, the

Marshall Islands, and Palau will visit DOI as part of the Close-Up Washington, D.C. program for high school students. This is a DOI/OIA funded program.

Interagency Meeting on Invasive Species Actions in the U.S. Pacific Insular Areas: On May 24, Interior OIA, FWS, and Policy staff will be meeting with USDA, and Navy officials to discuss Micronesia Regional Biosecurity Plan and respective agency efforts to support recommendations under the plan.

International Affairs

Northern Rangelands Trust Law Enforcement Exchange: DOI-ITAP is coordinating a technical exchange May 12-June 1 between two law enforcement officers from the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) and Yellowstone National Park. The NRT officers will be joining National Park staff during the seasonal law enforcement officers training. This exchange will provide field law-enforcement training. U.S. Agency for International Development funds this work.

Combating Wildlife Trafficking Strategic Planning in Kenya: DOI-ITAP is supporting a two- person team -- consisting of a USGS employee and a retiree from the USFWS Office of Law Enforcement -- to travel to Kenya May 12-24 to help develop a mission strategy to combat wildlife trafficking in Kenya as specified in the END Act. The team will hold meetings with representatives from the U.S. Government and Kenyan partners to map counter wildlife trafficking activities in Kenya. U.S. Agency for International Development funds this work.

Development of a Legal Office to support Environmental Laws in Cambodia: A team of DOI experts will travel to Cambodia May 16-24 to assist Cambodia's Ministry of Environment develop a legal office that will provide guidance and enforcement for a variety of current environmental laws and a comprehensive environmental proposal recently submitted for government approval. This effort is taking place under the Smart Infrastructure for the Mekong (SIM) program and follows up on previous assistance in drafting the proposed environmental legislation. U.S. Agency for International Development funds this work.

NAFTA 2.0: [UPDATE] As negotiations continue, INT Policy Division staff continue to coordinate DOI input into interagency review of negotiating positions as requested by USTR, including environmental, water and indigenous issues relevant for DOI, under the direction of the Deputy Secretary and ASIIA. In addition, INT is following up with ASIIA, DAS ASLM and the Energy Counselor regarding negotiations associated with Investor-State Dispute Settlement.

Oceans, Great Lakes, and Coasts

U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Watershed Partnership Initiative Interagency Working Group: On May 23, EPA and NOAA will host the Watershed Partnership Initiative Working Group to continue discussions on development of sustainability plans for the three USCRTF priority watershed sites, share lessons learned to watersheds across the seven U.S. coral reef jurisdictions, and developing plans for the American Samoa U.S. Coral Reef Task Force

meeting. The Ocean, Great Lakes, and Coastal program coordinator will attend for DOI.
(Webinar - EPA; no press)

American Samoa U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Planning Team Meeting: On May 24, the Planning Team for the 40th U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meeting will meet to discuss the agenda, theme, logistics, side meetings, workshops, and site visits. The 40th meeting will be held in Pago Pago, American Samoa in August.
(Conference call - American Samoa; no press)

U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Restoration Working Group: On May 24, the CNMI will host a meeting of the Restoration Working Group to discuss the current state of restoration efforts in each of the 7 U.S. coral reef jurisdictions, share lessons learned, and discuss membership of the newly formed national level working group and individual jurisdictional restoration teams. The working group will also discuss finalizing a resolution on restoration of coral reef ecosystems for the USCRTF Principals to consider for adoption this fall. The Ocean, Great Lakes, and Coastal program coordinator will attend and represent DOI.
(Conference call - CNMI; no press)

Hurricane Recovery

FEMA Recovery Support Function Leadership Group: The Department continues to participate in the FEMA Recovery Support Function Leadership Group for Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands (USVI) as the lead federal agency on the Natural and Cultural Resources (NCR) Recovery mission. DOI core teams are deployed in Puerto Rico and the USVI to work with Territorial government representatives and local partners on developing recovery priorities and long-term recovery strategies. Assessments of the 366 Puerto Rico Department of Sports and Recreation sites are completed. A new team of DOI recreation planners and engineers is mobilizing to assist the more than 400 Department of Natural and Environmental Resource sites and municipal parks. National Park Service curators and a navy conservator deployed to Puerto Rico also continue to assess damages to collections in museums, libraries, and archives around the Territory. Last week, National Park Service architects and archaeologists completed damage assessments of the sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places in the USVI. DOI staff in Puerto Rico are working with the RAND team to analyze the damage assessments and cost estimates generated to date, and develop courses of action to provide a forward leaning recovery plan for Puerto Rico. The USVI team continues to work with the Territorial stakeholders to identify key projects to support Recovery efforts and identify the federal and other resources to implement them.

Immediate Announcements and Actions (within the next 14 days)

International Affairs

NAFTA 2.0: In the aftermath of negotiations held in April, INT Policy Division staff continue to coordinate DOI input into interagency review of negotiating positions, including environmental, water and indigenous issues relevant for DOI, under the direction of the Deputy Secretary and ASIIA. In addition, INT is following up with ASIIA and DAS ASLM regarding the latest

negotiations associated with Investor State Dispute Settlement, which are relevant to the oil and gas industry.

Press Releases Planned for the Following:

Grant Award: 2018 Pacific Lineman Training Program \$230,000

Grant Award: Pacific Utility Engineers Workshop \$17,405

Grant Award: Coral Fellows Program \$200,000

Grant Award: Children's Healthy Living Program \$89,997

Grant Award: RMI 4 Atoll Healthcare Second Half \$713,359.82

15-60 Day Look-Ahead

Insular Affairs

U.S. Interagency Meeting on U.S. National Security Interests in the FAS and Territories:

On June 8, the State Department and DOI will co-host a U.S.-only interagency dialogue to secure the future U.S. presence in Micronesia to include 1) a session on the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and Palau, which builds upon the work of the USG Interagency Working Group on the Freely Associated States and aims to secure U.S. interests beyond 2023; and 2) a session on U.S. territories: Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The dialogue will be held at the SBU/FOUO level.

US Government Continues Discussions with Palau on Compact Funding:

Following a successful initial meeting in Palau on May 1, 2018 between the United States and Palau representatives, both respective Ambassadors from the United States and Palau are considering a second round of discussions in DC during the week of June 11, 2018.

White House Visit for the Freely Associated States: Summer 2018 – The State Department is supportive of a request from the President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands for a working meeting at the White House for the Presidents of the three freely associated states: Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. Secretary Zinke and FSM President Peter Christian discussed this briefly during a 2017 meeting at Interior.

International Affairs

MOU with Israel on Biodiversity Conservation, Protected Areas, and Cultural and

Historical Heritage: Israel's Nature and Parks Authority (INPA) Director General continues to seek a meeting with DOI at which time he hopes to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Secretary or his designee. The DG is contemplating a visit in either the spring or fall. The MOU is intended to strengthen cooperation on biodiversity conservation, protected areas, and cultural and historical heritage. Decisions will need to be made about timing in late May or early June vs. fall, whether to host an event at DOI or at the Israeli Embassy, and whether and what type of press or other public announcements should be made in conjunction with the signing. INT has shared the latest draft of the MOU for DOI senior leadership review. This has been pushed off to the Fall.

Initial Assessment for Energy Governance and Capacity Building Needs in Romania: DOI-ITAP has been invited to participate in a scoping assessment led by the State Department's Energy Resources Bureau June 11-15. Representatives from USGS and BOEM and/or BSEE have also been invited to participate. Site visits will focus on oil and gas concessions, data management and environmental risk mitigation. This initial assessment might lead to further energy governance and capacity building in the region later this year. The U.S. Department of State funds this work.

Environmental Affairs Council Meeting in Dominican Republic: DOI-ITAP will present its successes on training and coordination at the Environmental Affairs Council Meeting June 20-21. DOI-ITAP will also coordinate with State Department to develop a side event to highlight coordination and joint activities between DOI-ITAP, Ministries of Environment, and law enforcement agencies in the region on wild flora and fauna enforcement and prosecutions. The U.S. Department of State funds this work.

Bilateral Meetings in Conjunction with World Gas Conference: INT is coordinating with staff from External and Intergovernmental Affairs and the Energy Counselor's office, as well as with the State Department, regarding potential meetings between senior DOI officials and foreign counterparts while they are in Washington DC for the June 25-29 World Gas Conference. INT will collaborate with relevant bureaus and offices to assist with briefing materials and coordination with the State Department as needed.

Women in Marine Conservation Leadership Training in the Philippines: A leadership training course targeting women working in the field of marine conservation will be held July 26-27. The training will focus on understanding leadership; identifying strengths; gaining insight into one's own patterns, beliefs and values; strengthening interpersonal and communication skills; making strong decisions; empowering others; and other tenets of strong leadership development. U.S. Agency for International Development funds this work.

Oceans, Great Lakes, and Coasts

World Oceans Day and Capitol Hill Ocean Week: World Oceans Day is June 8 and Capitol Hill Ocean Week (CHOW) will be held June 5-7. The Ocean, Great Lakes, and Coastal Program Coordinator, along with the DOI Senior Ocean Policy Team, are coordinating the Department's participation in CHOW, which is hosted annually by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation. June has also historically been proclaimed as National Oceans Month, including by President Trump in 2017. Two new issues of the DOI NEWSWAVE newsletter are expected to be released in June for these events.

Awareness

International Affairs

Vietnamese Minister Meeting with Secretary and MOU Signing: The Vietnamese Minister of Public Security Tô Lâm has postponed his trip to Washington, DC until a date to be determined,

likely late June or early July. The Vietnamese government has expressed interest in the Minister meeting with the Secretary to sign a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen U.S. – Vietnam cooperation to combat wildlife trafficking. The Ministry of Public Security is the government ministry responsible for managing Vietnam’s police and public security forces, which play a key role in wildlife law enforcement. INT continues to work with FWS Office of Law Enforcement and the State Department to finalize the MOU with Vietnam.

Assistance to Tribes Seeking Repatriation from Abroad. *UPDATE* There are several developments worthy of awareness:

INT Policy Division staff continued to monitor developments and coordinate with other federal offices, regarding another Paris auction of American Indian items announced for June 21.

Interagency US-China Science and Technology Agreement (STA) Discussions. INT is preparing for expected interagency discussions on the renewal of the U.S. - China STA, which may begin in the next couple of weeks. The discussions will be led by the National Security Council. The interagency will be considering how to move forward with the STA renewal given some U.S. agency concerns about intellectual property rights, and concerns about whether China sees the STA Annex on intellectual property rights as legally binding. USGS has six protocols that fall under the STA umbrella agreement.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR LAND AND MINERALS MANAGEMENT

Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Hearings, and Travel

ASLM Joe Balash will travel to Alaska for scoping meetings.

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Kate MacGregor will travel to California and Alaska.

Deputy Assistant Secretary Casey Hammond will be in Washington, D.C. attending regularly scheduled meetings.

BSEE Director Scott Angelle will be in Washington, D.C. attending regularly scheduled meetings.

BLM Deputy Director Brian Steed will be in Washington, D.C. attending regularly scheduled meetings.

Immediate Announcements and Actions (within the next 14 days)

Bureau of Land Management

May 18 – 23. BLM-OR/WA. Umpqua Watersheds submitted a notice of appeal and statement of reasons to formally appeal the BLM’s denial of their protest of the First Floras and Crystal Clear Timber Sales. The Coos Bay District sent the administrative record to the Interior Board of Land Appeals on April 9, 2018, and the agency’s response to the statement of reasons is due May 18, 2018. The Crystal Clear Timber Sale includes 116 acres of regeneration harvest in the harvest land base land use allocation, and will yield 5.6 million board feet of timber. Scott

Timber Company purchased the timber at an oral auction on April 27, 2018. The First Floras Timber Sale includes 25 acres of regeneration harvest in the harvest land base, and is expected to yield 1.2 million board feet. The timber will be sold at auction on May 23, 2018. Both sales are controversial as environmental organizations, such as Umpqua Watersheds, posit that regeneration harvests remove older forests and degrade wildlife habitat. (3/30/18)

May 20. BLM-UT. The comment period for the Milford Flats South Solar Energy Zone Environmental Assessment ends. During the comment period, the field office will host a public meeting to provide information and answer questions regarding the proposal. The Cedar City Field Office released the EA for public review and comment on April 20. The EA analyzes the effects of leasing approximately 5,564 acres of public lands for solar energy development in Beaver County, Utah. Sensitive species that may be found in the project area include Kit Fox and Burrowing Owl. Mapped greater sage-grouse habitat is adjacent to the southern and eastern boundaries of the proposed lease areas. According to the Solar PEIS analysis, the solar energy zone encompasses portions of three perennial grazing allotments (13 percent of the Minersville 4 Allotment; two percent of the Minersville 5 Allotment; and 10 percent of the Minersville 6 Allotment). These allotments are used by nine permittees and support the production of 4,986 AUMs of forage per year. The Milford Flats South Solar Energy Zone was designated as part of the 2012 Solar Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement. (2/21/18)

[UPDATED] May 21. BLM-CO. The White River Field Office (WRFO) will announce a 30-day public comment period on its plan (pending WO approval) to gather wild horses from outside the Piceance-East Douglas Herd Management Area (HMA) in northwestern Colorado. The Appropriate Management Level for the HMA is 135-235 wild horses and the current population estimate in the HMA is 544 wild horses. WRFO estimates that there are 374 wild horses living outside the HMA. This includes 305 horses in the adjacent, controversial West Douglas Herd Area. The BLM has never managed West Douglas for a long-term wild horse population because of habitat and terrain, and has not been able to remove all the wild horses from this area. Many activists want to see the BLM maintain a wild horse population in West Douglas. Conversely, ranchers in the area have long argued for the removal of all wild horses in West Douglas. In September 2017, the BLM removed 86 wild horses from outside the Piceance-East Douglas HMA (but not from West Douglas) that were impacting private lands. WRFO is preparing a Determination of NEPA Adequacy for this year's potential gather, tiered to an environmental analysis completed last year. (4/10/18)

May 21. BLM-MT/DK. The Lewistown Field Office is starting the planning process for the Crooked Creek/Musselshell Travel Management Plan. This is the second of four travel management plans the Field Office is developing. It covers approximately 780 square miles in northern Petroleum County, which has a population of 475. A news release will be sent out on or around May 21 to announce the public scoping meetings for the Environmental Assessment of these units. The Lewistown Field Office plans to have separate meetings (one in Lewistown and one in Winnett, Mont.) in early June to solicit public comments on the motorized route alternatives. The plan is not expected to generate any significant controversy. (5/4/18)

May 21 – 22. BLM-UT will host a Resource Advisory Council meeting in Salt Lake City. Agenda items include BLM updates from the State Director, fire dispatch study implementation, 2018 fire season outlook, updates on planning process Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears

National Monuments, Watershed Protection Task Force, Mountain Accord, Washington County issues, Lake Powell pipeline project, recreation fee proposals, and planning updates. The public comment period will take place on May 22. The Federal Register meeting Notice published on April 2. (3/7/18) DTS 1945

[UPDATED] May 21 – 25. BLM-AK. The BLM will prepare a joint Record of Decision (ROD) on Donlin Gold with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, planned for late July. Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management Joe Balash will sign for the BLM. BLM-AK plans to have a ROD/ROW briefing package for Acting BLM-AK State Director Karen Mouritsen's review by mid-May. BLM Project Manager Laurie Thorpe continues meeting with key interdisciplinary staff and the State of Alaska Pipeline Coordination Section staff to further develop the ROW stipulations across the multiple landowner jurisdiction. On May 21-22, key players with the three core signatories to the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Programmatic Agreement (PA), including the Corps, BLM, and State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) to do a final review of the PA. On May 23, the PA will be distributed for signature and will be an appendix to the joint ROD. Donlin Gold LLC applied for permits for an open-pit, hardrock gold mine in southwest Alaska. The site will also include waste treatment and waste rock facilities, a mill, and a natural-gas-powered power plant. BLM-AK has been participating as a cooperating agency and is responsible for ROW authorization. Donlin Gold applied for a ROW on one-third of the 316-mile proposed natural gas pipeline. The ROW would cross approximately 92 miles and 4,322 acres of largely remote and undisturbed BLM-managed public lands. The affected public lands are under a 1981 Management Framework Plan and the area is included in the Bering Sea/Western Interior Resource Management Plan, currently under development. <http://www.DonlinGoldEIS.com>. (3/1/18)

[NEW] May 21 – 25. BLM-CO. The San Luis Valley Field Office will announce a 30-day public comment period on its draft environmental assessment to amend the 1991 Resource Management Plan for a proposal to remove the 2,882-acre Fourmile Solar Energy Zone (SEZ) on the east side of the San Luis Valley from utility scale solar development. The Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Solar Energy Development in Six Southwestern States designated the Fourmile SEZ in July 2012. The proposal responds to tribal, wildlife and night sky concerns. Tribal consultations identified concerns related to Native American traditional and religious values. Consultations with the National Park Service and Colorado Parks and Wildlife were also conducted. CPW stated that removing the SEZ designation would benefit big game winter range. NPS stated that removing the SEZ designation would preserve cultural values and night skies. Alamosa County did not express any concerns. Industry has not expressed interest in the area and the proposal is not expected to be controversial. (5/11/18)

May 21 – 25. BLM-ID. The Shoshone Field Office is working with the Idaho Department of Lands to acquire three easements across state land in the Jerome County Recreation and Public Purposes Act (R&PP) leased area. Jerome County has an R&PP lease that covers approximately 6,589 acres of public land referred to as Snake River Canyons Park. The easements, which total approximately 3,588 feet in length, would provide additional opportunities for Jerome County to continue developing their lease and provide permanent public access to an area overlooking the popular Shoshone Falls from the north side of the Snake River Canyon. The project is not controversial, but has been covered in local media and gained the attention of local politicians

and congressional staff. The Shoshone Field Office anticipates a decision on whether to acquire the easements the week of May 21 – 25. (5/4/18)

[UPDATED] May 21 – 25. BLM-NM. The Oklahoma Field Office expects to distribute a news release announcing issuance of a coal lease modification to Georges Colliers, Inc., to expand the active Pollyanna No. 8 coal mine. From March 19 -23, 2018, public notices were posted in three area newspapers, with one more pending, and Dear Reader letters were sent to interested parties; a news release is planned to announce the lease issuance. Colliers submitted the application in April 2015; the Decision Record was signed March 19 and posted to ePlanning on March 20, 2018. The mine is just south of Spiro, Okla., and the lease modification would include 520 acres of additional federal coal reserves at a depth of 1,000 – 1,200 feet, adjacent to the existing mine/lease boundary that would be accessed by underground mining methods using existing infrastructure. The additional acreage contains an estimated 5,616,000 tons of coal and would extend the life of the mine by about 8 years and continue to support 80 existing jobs. The modified lease was signed April 16, 2018, and has been sent to the applicant. Pending return of the lease with the applicant's signature as well as any payments due, the lease will be issued for the 1st day of the following month. (3/16/18)

[UPDATED] May 21 – 25. BLM-UT. The Price Field Office will release for public review and comment an Environmental Assessment analyzing two coal lease modification proposals. Canyon Fuel Company proposes to modify two federal coal leases at their SUFCO Mine in Sevier County. The proposed modifications are contiguous and combined, totaling 790 acres and containing an estimated 6.25 million tons of recoverable coal. The SUFCO Mine is approximately 25 miles east of Salina. There are no significant issues associated with the proposal, which has state and local support. The proposal would not create any new jobs but would extend the life of the existing mine by approximately 1.5 years. (4/4/18)

[UPDATED] May 21 – June 15. BLM-AK is preparing a Federal Register notice for the State of Alaska's application for a Recordable Disclaimer of Interest (RDI) for lands underlying the Fortymile River System in Alaska. The State of Alaska asserts that these waters are navigable and title to the bed passed to the State on the date of statehood (1959). If BLM-AK approves the State's application, the decision document will issue a disclaimer. These disclaimers help remove perceived clouds over the State's title and restore the State's sovereignty over their lands. There are approximately 2,084 acres (86 river miles) of submerged lands impacted by this decision, primarily affecting the State of Alaska and BLM. The Notice of Application for an RDI is to inform the public of the pending application and the State of Alaska's supporting evidence, as well as to provide the opportunity to comment or provide additional information to the BLM. The BLM will not make a final decision on the merits of the State's application before 90 days from publication of the notice. (4/26/18)

[UPDATED] May 21 – June 15. BLM-AK is preparing a *Federal Register* notice for the State of Alaska's application for a Recordable Disclaimer of Interest (RDI) for lands underlying the Egegik River, Becharof Lake, and Ruth Lake and Outlet in Alaska. The State of Alaska asserts that these waters are navigable and title to the bed passed to the State on the date of statehood (1959). If BLM-AK approves the State's application, the decision document will issue a disclaimer. These disclaimers help remove perceived clouds over the State's title and restore the State's sovereignty over their lands. There are approximately 290,983 acres of submerged lands

impacted by this decision, primarily affecting the State of Alaska and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Notice of Application for a RDI is to inform the public of the pending application and the State of Alaska's supporting evidence, as well as to provide the opportunity to comment or provide additional information to the BLM. The BLM will not make a final decision on the merits of the State's application before 90 days from publication of the notice. The [2005 Bristol Bay Area Plan](#) from the Alaska Department of Natural Resources identified some mineral potential in the areas surrounding Egegik River and Becharof Lake. The plan also gives a summary of the region. (4/4/18)

[UPDATED] May 21 – June 15. BLM-AK is preparing a Federal Register notice for the State of Alaska's application for a Recordable Disclaimer of Interest (RDI) for lands underlying the Taku River in Alaska. The State of Alaska asserts that the Taku River is navigable and title to the bed passed to the State on the date of statehood (1959). If BLM-AK approves the application, the decision document will issue a disclaimer. These disclaimers help remove perceived clouds over the State's title to the bed of the navigable waters and to restore the State's sovereignty over their lands. There are approximately 36,160 acres (35 river miles) of submerged lands impacted by this decision, primarily affecting the State of Alaska and the U.S. Forest Service. The Notice of Application for a RDI is to inform the public of the pending application and the State of Alaska's supporting evidence, as well as to provide the opportunity to comment or provide additional information to the BLM. The BLM will not make a final decision on the merits of the State's application before 90 days from publication of the notice. The notice is under review in Washington, D.C. (4/13/18) DTS 2055

[UPDATED] May 21 – June 19. BLM-AK is hosting public scoping meetings on the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) during the 60-day public comment period that closes on June 19. Karen Mouritsen, BLM-AK Acting State Director, will attend the May 21-23 meetings in Arctic Village, Kaktovik and Utqiagvik. Ted Murphy, BLM-AK Associate State Director, will attend the May 29 and 30 meetings in Fairbanks and Anchorage. The last public scoping meeting will take place in Washington, D.C. on June 15. Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Joseph Balash, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Kate MacGregor, and Senior Advisor for Alaska Affairs Steven Wackowski also plan to attend. The Federal Register published the Notice of Intent (NOI) on April 20, initiating the public scoping and 60-day comment period. The Federal Register also published a technical correction on April 26, adding a website for commenting. As directed by Congress in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, the BLM is working toward an oil and gas lease sale in the Coastal Plain. This includes reaching out to partners and stakeholders, consulting with affected Alaska Native Tribes and Corporations, and laying the groundwork for an environmental analysis that is required before a lease sale can be held. Because it is a major unexplored, but potentially productive geologic onshore basin, oil and gas from the Coastal Plain is an important resource for meeting our nation's energy needs and achieving energy dominance. BLM-AK awarded EMPSi, a third-party contractor, the contract on April 18 to support development of the EIS. (3/16/18) DTS 1996

[NEW] May 22. BLM-ID. The Shoshone Field Office has received a mining Notice from the Magma Gold Corporation for a 4.8-acre area 11 miles north of Shoshone. Magma Gold owns an approximately 2,000-acre block of 108 mining claims in the area but the proposed exploration will occur on only two of those claims. The Shoshone Field Office is working to de-conflict any

resource issues in the identified work area with a May 22 deadline. It is in sage-grouse priority area, and clearances for plants and animals will be completed prior to work beginning. No controversy is expected as this company has previously conducted these types of activities in the area. (5/11/18)

May 22 – 23. The 8th Annual Sage Grouse Initiative (SGI) Workshop will be held in Boise, Idaho. This annual meeting is planned and hosted by the Landscapes Initiative Team of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), who coordinate the SGI. Approximately 155 employees from Federal and non-Federal entities are expected. Invited attendees represent important conservation partners to the BLM, including the NRCS, SGI, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Forest Service, Idaho Governor's Office, researchers, and private groups. (5/4/18)

May 23. The Annual Making a Difference National Volunteer Awards ceremony will take place at 1:00 pm Eastern Time in Room 5071 at the Main Interior Building (MIB). Winners have been selected and all states with winners have been informed. An IB formally announcing this year's honorees will be posted in early May. Awardees will travel to their state offices to receive their awards. Each state office hosting a winner will be live-linked through the video teleconferencing system to MIB for the ceremony. Chris McAlear, Assistant Director for National Conservation Lands and Community Partnerships, is tentatively slated to serve as Master of Ceremony. Awards are presented at individual state offices by state leadership in those offices. (3/20/18)

May 23. BLM-MT/DK. Indian Outreach Meetings will take place in Mandaree, North Dakota. Representatives from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, BLM, Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR), and Office of Special Trustee for American Indians will be available to answer questions by individual Indian Mineral interest owners on mineral ownership, development and royalties. ONRR will mail a meeting notice reminder to local individuals and advertise in local media. Media and general (non-allottee) public have not been invited. (4/20/18)

May 23. BLM-OR/WA. The Coos Bay District Office will hold a salvage timber sale at an oral auction on May 23. The District Office released the Decision Record for the Chetco Fire Salvage Categorical Exclusion on May 3. The project includes 140 acres of harvest to salvage trees in the harvest land base that were damaged during the summer 2017 Chetco Bar Fire. The decision to salvage the timber may be controversial. (3/30/18)

[NEW] May 23 – 24. BLM-MT/DK. Missoula Field Manager Joe Ashor will attend the Crown Managers Partnership (CMP) bi-annual steering committee meeting in Missoula, Montana. The CMP is a cross-boundary initiative to coordinate and collaborate on issues affecting ecological integrity of the crown region including invasive species, landscape connectivity, native salmonids, five-needle pines and meso-carnivores. The meeting will include representatives from the Flathead and Lewis and Clark National Forests, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Waterton and Glacier National Parks, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Alberta Environment and Parks, and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. The BLM will give a brief update on the progress of Missoula's Resource Management Plan revision as well as ongoing and planned projects for 2018. The discussion is not expected to be controversial nor is the press expected to attend. (5/11/18)

[NEW] May 23 – 25. BLM-MT/DK. The Billings Field Office will utilize a small Unmanned Aerial System (drone) to perform an aerial survey of the Crooked Creek Road in the Pryor Mountains of south central Montana to assess road conditions and provide baseline information to plan road maintenance projects. This is part of an ongoing effort in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service Beartooth Ranger District to ensure public access and provide motorized recreation opportunities to this unique area that encompasses both BLM and Forest Service lands, including the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range. It will provide critical information to identify where improvements to drainage, grades, and surfacing are needed to maintain sustainable access along the primary public access route. Use of drone technology will cut costs by approximately 75 percent when compared to traditional surveying techniques. (5/11/18)

[NEW] May 23 – 25. BLM-UT. As part of ongoing Bears Ears National Monument planning efforts, the BLM is hosting two more external meetings in May. The first will be a socio-economic workshop to be held May 23 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the Monticello Field Office, and will include county and city officials, cooperators, stakeholders, and interested public. The second, which is scheduled for May 24-25 in Moab, will be a continuation of the cooperating agency efforts to develop and finalize alternatives, building on the success of the first meeting held in early May. The team anticipates completing alternative development by June 1 to use as the framework for analyzing potential environmental impacts. The Bears Ears National Monument Draft Monument Management Plan is scheduled for release in July 2018. (5/11/18)

[NEW] May 24. Brian Steed will speak at the U.S. Oil & Gas Association meeting in Washington D.C. Anticipated topics include venting and flaring, hydraulic fracturing, onshore orders, master leasing plans, and speed of decision making. (5/11/18)

[NEW] May 24. BLM-ID. The BLM Shoshone Field Office expects to sign the Record of Decision on May 24 to authorize special recreation permits for fishing and chukar hunting. The applicants include: Silver Creek Outfitters, Lost River Outfitters, Picabo Anglers, Idaho Angling Services, and Sun Valley Outfitters. The permits would allow walk-and-wade style fishing on all river segments, float tubes and float boats on the Lower Big Wood, and boats (both motorized and non-motorized) and float tubes on Magic Reservoir. The decision will be signed by Shoshone Field Manager Codie Martin. No controversy is expected. (5/11/18)

May 24. BLM-MT/DK. Acting State Director Jon Raby and staff will meet with Three Affiliated Tribes (TAT) Chairman Mark Fox and members of the TAT Tribal Counsel in Bismarck, North Dakota, as a follow-up to the March Federal Partner's Meeting and the Chairman's request for face-to-face government-to-government consultation. Topics will include the following: Flaring, Slawson Applications for Permit to Drill, Underground Injection Wells, Update on the 3179 Regulations, and Overlapping Communitization Agreements. The media and public are not invited. (5/4/18)

May 24. BLM-OR/WA. The Upper Willamette Field Office, Northwest Oregon District, is proposing timber harvest using regeneration harvest and commercial thinning across approximately 1,160 acres within the Harvest Land Base—Moderate Intensity Timber Area land use allocation. The proposed project is located east and south of Cottage Grove, Oregon. This project is being analyzed in the Row River Timber Management Environmental Assessment (EA), expected to be released for public review in May 2018. This EA analyzes harvesting

approximately 50,000 MBF (thousand board feet) of timber expected to be sold between FY 2018 and FY 2023. This project is designed to conform to the Northwestern and Coastal Oregon 2016 Record of Decision / Resource Management Plan. The BLM expects that timber sale decisions analyzed in this EA will be protested and appealed. (4/4/18)

[UPDATED] May 25. BLM Deputy Director Brian Steed will speak at the National Association of Counties (NACo) Western Interstate Region (WIR) Annual Conference in Sun Valley, Idaho. The WIR Conference brings together hundreds of county officials each year for a discussion of federal policy issues impacting counties and to help shape NACo's advocacy efforts on behalf of counties. (4/26/18)

[UPDATED] May 25. BLM-ID. The Bruneau Field Manager will issue two of three proposed grazing decisions, which renew grazing permits, restore riparian areas, protect cultural resources, and incorporate range improvement projects across 187,537 acres of BLM-administered lands. The project area lies entirely within a Priority Habitat Management Area, and contains wilderness areas and wild and scenic rivers. The Environmental Assessment (EA) was released on August 30, 2017, for public review, and the Field Manager has been meeting with permittees, state and federal agencies, and other interested publics to address concerns and comments provided in the EA prior to issuing decisions. There is no anticipated reduction in AUMs as a result of these pending decisions. (2/7/18)

[NEW] May 25. BLM-NV proposes to publish a Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and land use plan amendment in the Federal Register. The EIS would analyze the Gemini Solar Project, which would consist of the construction, operation, and eventual decommissioning of solar modules and associated facilities necessary to generate up to 690 megawatts of electricity. The proposed project area is located on 7,115 acres of public land 25 miles northeast of Las Vegas, Nevada. (5/11/18) DTS 1983

[UPDATED] May 28 – June 1. BLM-ES expects to publish in the Federal Register a Notice to reoffer a coal lease sale of 160 acres of Federal mineral estate in Jefferson, County, Alabama. The Federal tract (ALES 55199) is adjacent to the existing Narley Mine No. 3 (fee land) permitted under the Alabama Surface Mining Commission. The tract would provide approximately 469,000 recoverable tons of federal coal. BLM-ES anticipates conducting a competitive coal lease sale in July 2018, on a date TBD within the timeframe allowed following publication of the Federal Register notice. The Federal tract was originally offered for competitive sale on April 14, 2016. The single bid received from Best Coal, Inc. did not meet the minimum bid as approved by the BLM and the Office of Valuation Services Division of Minerals Evaluation (DME). The DME concurred with the updated Fair Market Value report on March 30, 2018, clearing the way for the re-offer. The Federal Register notice correspondence file was routed for review by the Office of the Solicitor on April 30, 2018. (4/4/18) DTS 14231

May 30. BLM-ID. The Bruneau Field Manager will issue a decision that designates 1,521 miles of routes as part of a comprehensive travel management plan within the Bruneau Field Office. In 2009, the Owyhee Public Lands Management Act directed the BLM to complete travel management on all BLM-managed lands within Owyhee County. The Canyonlands East Travel Management Plan is the first of five travel management plans that are underway. As with any Travel Management Planning, there may be some controversy. Local, state, and federal agencies

and NGOs are generally supportive of it. The one exception is motorcycle groups. It is unknown whether they will appeal. (2/7/18)

May 30. BLM-ID. The Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area (NCA) Manager will issue a travel management plan decision for the southern portion of the NCA. In 2009, the Owyhee Public Lands Management Act directed the BLM to complete travel management plans on all BLM-managed lands within Owyhee County. The NCA South Travel Management Plan is the second of five travel management plans that are underway. As with any Travel Management Planning, there may be some controversy. According to the Boise District Office, counties are generally okay with it. However, Idaho Parks & Recreation (state) and some motorized groups may appeal it. (2/7/18)

[UPDATED] In May. A report to Congress on efforts to conserve Greater Sage-Grouse, restore sagebrush habitat, and implement a native seed strategy was due July 4, 2017, per direction from the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2017. The report is ready for final review. (4/4/18) DTS 11379

In May. SO 3359 implements Executive Order 13817, which aims to reduce the vulnerability to disruption of critical mineral supply among other stated goals. The Order requires BLM to submit to the Secretary, within 60-days, a report with a list of recommendations to: 1) improve access to lands to explore for and develop critical minerals; 2) streamline permitting and review processes related to critical minerals development; and 3) otherwise increase critical mineral discovery, production, and domestic refining. The BLM has drafted a report with 13 recommendations across these categories that is under review in Washington. (3/30/18)

In May. At the Department's request, the BLM prepared for the Office of Management and Budget a report on hardrock mineral royalties regimes in the United States. The report discusses options for a Federal royalty on hardrock minerals, litigation risks, legislative history, and provides additional background. It is under review in the BLM Washington Office. (3/30/18)

In May. BLM-AZ. The Arizona State Office has received five Expressions of Interest (EOI) for oil and gas leasing between October 2017 and January 2018. The EOI's total 6,761 acres and are located in Apache and Navajo counties. The adjudication has been completed, and three parcels have been created and forwarded to the Safford Field Office for National Environmental Policy Act analysis. (4/26/18)

[UPDATED] In May. BLM-AZ. The Lower Sonoran Field Office has been requested to transfer 3,380.69 acres (surface and subsurface) to the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) through a noncompetitive direct sale for the appraised fair market value. The subject parcels are located on the western and southern margins of the Gila River Indian Reservation in Maricopa and Pinal Counties in Arizona, south of the Phoenix metro area. These lands are isolated from other BLM lands in the area and were identified as suitable for disposal in the BLM's Lower Sonoran Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan. The GRIC is very interested in acquiring these lands because of their adjacency to its reservation and the presence of cultural resources significant to them present on these lands. The non-competitive direct sale is being pursued at the request of the GRIC, which was formally submitted in 2015. The BLM Arizona Land Tenure Steering Committee recommended pursuing this action in May 2015; this

recommendation was approved by the Arizona State Director. The BLM has completed an appraisal to determine fair market value of the parcel (\$9,620,000) and is in the process of notifying other potential interested and qualified parties about the sale. The package is with ASLM for review. (4/4/18) DTS 1804

In May. BLM-AZ. The Arizona Strip Field Office is preparing a Resource Management Plan (RMP) amendment related to the Kanab Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), in order for the proposed Lake Powell Pipeline project to proceed. The analysis in the RMP amendment will subsequently be incorporated into an associated environmental impact statement (EIS) for the larger Lake Powell Pipeline Project being completed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The FERC is the lead agency to complete the EIS for the Pipeline Project; the BLM is a cooperating agency. The Utah Division of Water Resources is the Project proponent. Although only a small portion (900 acres) of the management area is affected, the BLM must complete the RMP amendment to address inconsistencies between the decisions in the current RMP, the proposed route for the Pipeline, and an existing utility corridor designated. Approximately 1.5 miles of the proposed Pipeline would run through the Kanab Creek ACEC. This information will be incorporated into the FERC's EIS for the larger Lake Powell Pipeline Project. (4/4/18) DTS 1860

In May. BLM-AZ. The Lower Sonoran Field Office will release the Final Environmental Impact Statement related to development of the proposed Sonoran Valley Parkway Project (SVPP) by the City of Goodyear in Maricopa County, Arizona. This project provides the opportunity to create immediate and future jobs, help bolster the growing local economy, and reduce emergency service response times. The City has approximately 77,000 residents and is part of the Phoenix-metropolitan area, which has approximately 4.5 million residents. The SVPP will provide needed enhancements to infrastructure as the area is projected to experience significant growth. The proposed project would involve approximately 475 acres of BLM-managed public lands. The package is under review in Washington, D.C. (4/4/18) DTS 1775

In May. BLM-AZ. BLM Arizona will publish its Record of Decision (ROD) for Recreational Target Shooting in the Sonoran Desert National Monument. A March 2015 federal court order required the BLM to re-analyze impacts of recreational target shooting on the monument. The ROD, which was developed after extensive public outreach and analysis, preserves access for target shooting on nearly 90% of the monument, while ensuring public safety in the area of heaviest family recreation use—the Juan Bautista de Anza Recreation Management Zone (RMZ). The ROD was filed with U.S. District Court in Phoenix on March 5, 2018, and the announcement will coincide with publication of the Notice of the Availability in the Federal Register. The package is under review in Washington, D.C. (3/7/18) DTS 1976

In May. BLM-CA intends to renew the site license for Calpine's Sonoma Power Plant, which is located at The Geysers geothermal area in Sonoma County. The 30-year license required for operations has expired. The Ukiah Field Office posted an unsigned Categorical Exclusion (CX) for public review on ePlanning on Jan. 24 and the CX was signed Feb. 1. Once the proponent signs the license, BLM-CA will finalize the process and issue the site license. (3/16/18)

In May. BLM-CA is preparing an Environmental Assessment and Resource Management Plan Amendment for a proposed transmission and water pipeline right-of-way (ROW) associated with

the Eagle Mountain Pumped Storage Project in Riverside County. In 2014, the Eagle Crest Energy Company obtained a 50-year license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to construct, operate, and maintain the Eagle Mountain Pumped Storage Hydroelectric Project. The BLM is processing a ROW application associated with the 1,300-megawatt project that includes a 500-kV transmission line and a 12-inch water pipeline energy transmission. The project is estimated to create 4,300 jobs during construction and will contribute to the state's energy portfolio. The City of Palm Springs and Cathedral City, environmental groups, and Colorado River Indian Tribes have voiced concern over the project, including its proximity to Joshua Tree National Park, impacts to critical or endangered desert species, and potential impacts to water, cultural, and historic resources. The project is under review in Washington, D.C. (2/21/18)

In May. BLM-CA. The Central Coast Field Office will publish the Final Supplementary Rules related to dog management on public lands at Fort Ord National Monument. These rules also clarify rules in place since 1996 and are consistent with the Resource Management Plan. The rules are responsive to hazards from potential unexploded military munitions and explosives and visitor conflicts in a high-use recreation area. The rules are not expected to be controversial. The Notice is pending approval in Washington, D.C. (3/1/18) DTS 1413

In May. BLM-CO. BLM Colorado is preparing a Notice of Proposed Reinstatement for Context Energy's terminated oil and gas lease (COC77678). The lease is located in Archuleta and La Plata counties, totaling approximately 1,920 acres. The lease was terminated on June 1, 2017 because Context Energy failed to pay rental fees on time. If approved, the lease would be reinstated with an increased royalty rate and rental fee. BLM Colorado is planning for a May 2018 (pending WO and DOI approval) publication in the Federal Register. (4/4/18)

In May. BLM-CO. The Tres Rios Field Office will announce a 30-day public comment period on its proposal to use bait and/or water trapping as the preferred method for future removal of wild horses from the Spring Creek Basin Herd Management Area. The proposal includes continuing to treat mares with fertility control to slow population growth. The appropriate management level for the HMA is between 35 and 65 animals. The BLM estimates the Spring Creek Basin herd is at the high AML for the HMA. (4/4/18)

In May. BLM-ES is working with the U.S. Coast Guard on a withdrawal revocation package for Lot 22 of the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area (ONA), Florida. The package was sent April 12, 2018 to the Knoxville Field Solicitor's Office for legal sufficiency review. The BLM is the primary administrator of the 120-acre ONA, engaging in shared stewardship of the site in collaboration with local partners. The U.S. Coast Guard submitted a Notice of Intent to Relinquish Lot 22 (16.41 acres) to the BLM in June 2017. Lot 22 includes the lighthouse, which is on the National Register of Historic Places and receives more than 75,000 visitors annually. The BLM is currently in the suitability determination phase of the relinquishment, which includes an environmental assessment, preparation of a suitability report, completion of a NEPA compliance document, and publication of a Notice in the Federal Register. (4/11/18)

In May. BLM MT/DK. The Butte Field Office is conducting prescribed burns as part of the vegetation restoration project in the Iron Mask Planning Area of Broadwater County, Mont. This effort continues despite Native Ecosystem Council (NEC) and Alliance for the Wild Rockies (AWR) having filed a Complaint for Injunctive Relief in U.S. District Court seeking to halt the

project. The BLM has been formally served with the complaint. The Butte Field Office is working with the DOI Solicitor's Office and Department of Justice to prepare a response. Both NEC and AWR filed administrative protests and appeals with OHA and IBLA on these same actions, but did not prevail in that review process. (3/30/18)

In May. BLM-MT/DK. The Lewistown Field Office is preparing a Notice of Realty Action for Federal Register publication announcing the BLM's classification of 80 acres at Bynum Reservoir in Teton County, Mont., as suitable for conveyance under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act. The Federal Register Notice will also inform the public that Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (MFWP) has applied to have the land conveyed from the BLM to MFWP. MFWP has maintained a fishing and recreation access site on Bynum Reservoir for over 20 years with a right-of-way from the BLM. The BLM Lewistown Field Office will convey the 80 acres to MFWP under the condition that the State will never sell the land or change its current recreational use; otherwise the land will return to the BLM. (4/4/18)

In May. BLM-NV. The Ely District will release the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Gold Rock Mine Project. The BLM will not issue a final decision on the proposed project for a minimum of 30 days after the Environmental Protection Agency publishes its Notice of Availability in the Federal Register. The proposed project would add 300 direct jobs during construction and 150 to 250 direct jobs during peak mining operations. The project is located 50 west of Ely and 30 miles southeast of Eureka in rural White Pine County, Nevada. White Pine County and Eureka County are supportive of the project and the local rural economic development it will bring. Local livestock grazing permittees have expressed concern about the loss of forage within the fenced mine area, and the Nevada Department of Wildlife has expressed concerns about the project in regard to impacts to Greater Sage-Grouse and crucial mule deer winter habitat. The mining company has included voluntary mitigation to reduce these impacts. The Notice is under review in Washington. (4/4/18)

In May. BLM-NM. The Carlsbad Field Office expects to publish the Notice of Availability (NOA) for its Draft Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement, outlining the BLM's long-term "landscape-level" plans and goals for public lands in Lea, Chaves, and Eddy Counties. The planning area includes approximately 2.1 million acres of Federal surface land and 3 million acres of BLM-managed mineral estate in Chaves, Eddy, and Lea Counties. The NOA is under review in Washington D.C. (3/7/18) DTS 2012

In May. BLM-UT is considering the non-competitive, direct sale to PacifiCorp of 200 acres of public land in Emery County, Utah, at not less than the appraised fair market value. The proposed sale is in conformance with the October 2008 Price Field Office Resource Management Plan. The lands would be offered to PacifiCorp non-competitively due to the lack of public access and their ownership of the surrounding lands, pursuant to 43 CFR 2711.3-3(a)(4). Conveyance of the identified public lands would be subject to valid existing rights and encumbrances of record. (3/7/18) DTS 1984

In May. BLM-UT is considering the modified competitive sale of 160 acres of public land in Emery County, Utah, at not less than the appraised fair market value to the adjacent landowners Hunter Prep Plant LLC, Ross Huntington, and Clinton Price. The proposed sale is in conformance with the October 2008 Price Field Office Resource Management Plan. The lands

would be offered to the adjoining land owners on a modified competitive basis, with Hunter Prep Plant, LLC as the designated bidder, giving them the right to meet the highest bid pursuant to 43 CFR 2711.3-2(a)(1). Conveyance of the identified public land would be subject to valid existing rights and encumbrances of record. (3/7/18) DTS 1985

In May. BLM-UT expects to approve a Final Environmental Impact Statement for Alton Coal, which seeks to expand its existing mine by leasing federal coal on 3,581 acres of public and private lands near Alton, Utah. The Alton Coal Tract contains 59.6 million tons of bituminous coal, and the proposed action could extend mining operations by 25 years. The lease sale needs to occur by summer 2018 for continuous operations. (2/21/18) DTS 2032

In May. BLM-UT. The Utah State Director will transmit a Federal Register notice to WO-240 regarding a Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) effort. This notice will correct a previous notice published in 2004 to update the minimum number of individuals from two archaeological sites in southwestern Utah based on updated osteological analysis. Publishing the notice in the Federal Register will be one of the final steps in the NAGPRA process to repatriate the remains of 12 individuals and thousands of associated funerary objects to Hopi Tribe. In accordance with the results of the tribal consultations, all of the human remains and funerary objects will be reburied on BLM-managed lands administered by the Kanab Field Office in Kane County, Utah. (3/20/18)

In May. BLM-WY. The Lander Field Office expects to initiate a 30-day public scoping period for a wild horse gather in the North Lander Wild Horse Herd Management Area (HMA) Complex. The complex is in central Wyoming and is made up of the Conant Creek, Dishpan Butte, Muskrat Basin and Rock Creek Mountain HMAs. The current appropriate management level (AML) for the complex is 320-536 mature horses; its current estimated population is 1,134 horses. The environmental assessment will analyze long-term solutions to bring the population down to the AML and keep it within the low and high AML range. Actions being considered to accomplish these objectives include but are not limited to: vasectomizing a portion of the stallions within the complex; reducing the reproducing population through the use of gelding and adjusted sex ratios; creating limited-reproducing herds using some combination of gelding, spay and/or segregation; and using the fertility control drug GonaCon in conjunction with one of the previously mentioned treatments. There is not a North Lander Complex gather currently on the national gather schedule. The Lander Field Office intends to have the NEPA completed should gather opportunities become available. Due to the inherent controversy associated with wild horse gathers, there will be public and media interest in this scoping period. (4/20/18)

[UPDATED] In May. BLM-WY expects to publish the Notice of Availability for the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Normally Pressured Lance (NPL) Project. The Federal Register package is currently under review in Washington D.C. The proposed project includes drilling up to 3,500 directional natural gas wells over a 10-year period on approximately 140,000 acres. The NPL project is projected to yield between 3.5 to 7 trillion cubic feet of natural gas and between 17.5 to 140 million barrels of oil over its estimated 40-year life. Project revenues are estimated at \$17.8 billion with federal royalties amounting to about \$2.2 billion, of which about \$1.1 billion would go to the State of Wyoming. The project would also bring about 954 full time jobs to the region during development. (2/21/18)

[UPDATED] Late May. BLM-AK will submit a Federal Register Notice for revocation of five Public Land Orders (PLOs), which will open approximately 229,632 acres in the Goodnews Bay region for surface entry, mineral exploration and mining; it will also make the state selections effective, and allow the BLM to move forward in conveying lands to the State under their Statehood entitlement. The PLOs were issued in 1972, pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act Sec. 17(d)(1), and were recommended for revocation in the 2008 Bay Resource Management Plan. The Notice is under review at the BLM Alaska State Office. (3/1/18)

[UPDATED] Late May. BLM-CO. The Royal Gorge Field Office has prepared a Notice of Realty Action (NORA) for a direct sale of four parcels totaling 6.72 acres to the City of Black Hawk in Gilpin County. The adjacent, surrounding lands are primarily owned by the city and they intend to use the parcels for infrastructure, recreation and open space. The parcels were segregated from the 1872 Mining Law, which expired May 5. The proposal itself is not considered controversial. The potential for controversy has increased now that the segregation period expired due to the possibility of mining claims being filed on the parcels, which would interfere with the city's plan. Prior to the expiration, RGFO issued site-type rights-of-way to themselves on all four parcels to preserve the the city's plan for the parcels. RGFO is planning for a late May 2018 (pending WO and DOI approval) publication in the Federal Register. The Federal Register Notice package was signed and sent to the Washington Office on March 9. (2/7/18) DTS 1992

[UPDATED] Late May. BLM-CO. The Grand Junction Field Office plans to announce a decision to approve the proposed "Palisade Plunge" trail. The proposed 30-mile non-motorized trail is a collaborative effort between the BLM, U.S. Forest Service Grand Mesa Ranger District, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the Town of Palisade, and the Colorado Plateau Mountain Bike Trail Association. The Palisade Plunge is one of the Colorado Governor's "Colorado 16" projects to support trails and promote outdoor recreation in the state. Approximately 18 months of construction is expected to complete the trail before it is accessible to the public. (5/4/18)

Late May. BLM-CO. The Grand Junction Field Office will release the oil and gas leasing environmental assessment for South Shale Ridge, which includes 16 parcels totaling approximately 23,157 acres north of Grand Junction in Mesa County for a 30-day public review. Oil and gas leasing in the area was successfully challenged in 2005 with leasing remanded until the Grand Junction Resource Management Plan (RMP) was updated to address a 1997 Wilderness inventory. The updated Grand Junction RMP was finalized in 2015. (5/4/18)

[UPDATED] Late May. BLM-ID. Boise District Fire and Aviation expects to sign the Record of Decision for the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Bruneau-Owyhee Sage-Grouse Habitat (BOSH) Project. The Final EIS was released for a 30-day public availability period on Feb. 9. The Final EIS, which was developed in cooperation with several state and federal agencies, analyzes the removal of encroaching Western juniper on 726,000 acres of sagebrush steppe habitat in Owyhee County. This juniper treatment project builds on proactive land management policies and practices to conserve the region's remaining sagebrush habitat, which supports significant economic activity, such as ranching and recreation, as well as abundant wildlife, including mule deer, elk, pronghorn antelope and golden eagles. The public availability period closed on March 11. The BLM received ten comments, including comments addressing roughly three issues that will be documented in the ROD. The district is currently

completing tribal consultation on the Final EIS and estimates signing the ROD in mid-May. (2/21/18)

Late May. BLM-ID. The Boise District is completing an environmental analysis to authorize the use of 18 herbicide active ingredients as authorized by the BLM in the 2016 Final Vegetation Treatments Using Aminopyralid, Fluroxypyr, and Rimsulfuron on BLM Lands in 17 Western States Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement and the 2007 Final Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on Bureau of Land Management Lands in 17 Western States Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement. The forthcoming decision will determine how noxious weeds and invasive plants will be managed on public lands within the Boise District. The Decision is expected to be signed in late May, pending completion of Section 7 consultation. (3/20/18)

Late May. BLM-MT/DK. A March 23, 2018, order by the U.S. District Court for the District of Montana identified National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) deficiencies in the Miles City Resource Management Plan (RMP) and the Buffalo (Wyoming) RMP. The court directed the BLM and plaintiffs to attempt to reach an agreement no later than May 23, 2018, and to prepare an expedited schedule for preparation of a supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for both RMPs. Due to the court-identified NEPA deficiencies, the BLM anticipates postponing the scheduled June 12, 2018, oil and gas lease sale for 217 nominated oil and gas lease parcels within the Miles City Field Office. The BLM expects to make a final decision on the postponement and make the decision public by the end of May. (3/30/18)

[NEW] Late May. BLM-NV. A Notice of Intent to amend the Las Vegas Resource Management Plan is proposed for publication in the Federal Register. The amendment would enlarge the lands disposal boundary by 621 acres, and propose a direct sale of the 621 acres to the Spring Mountain Raceway, a resort lodge with a private race track. (5/11/18) DTS 1931

[UPDATED] Late May. BLM-NM. The Amarillo Field Office will announce plans to hold an auction on July 18 to sell federally owned helium. The Federal Helium Program is responsible for the conservation and sale of federally owned helium. The BLM operates and maintains a helium storage reservoir, enrichment plant and pipeline system, near Amarillo, Texas, that supplies enough helium to meet more than 40 percent of domestic demand for the gas. The field office will announce the auction and sale in a Federal Register Notice. The package is with WO-100. (4/20/18) DTS 1900

[NEW] Late May. BLM-UT. In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), a Notice of Intended Disposition will be published in two newspapers in the BLM Color Country District. This legal notice will run twice, two weeks apart. Publication will communicate BLM-UT's intent to transfer custody of human remains and associated funerary objects that were inadvertently discovered by a member of the public and reported to Kane County Sheriff's Office. The BLM is working with the Hopi Tribe, Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians, and Paiute Tribe of Utah on this effort, and the final disposition of materials will be determined prior to publication of the legal notice. The quantity of materials is not yet known, as the remains and funerary objects remain in the ground. This notice is time-sensitive due to the immediate need for excavation and reburial of the materials prior to expected summer storms. The BLM is not planning to issue a press release on this effort. (5/11/18)

Late May. BLM-WY. The Buffalo Field Office will release the I-90 Corridor Travel Management Draft Environmental Assessment (EA), initiating a public scoping period that will end in June or July. Two public meetings will also be held during this period, the dates of which have not yet been determined. On March 8, the BLM began issuing letters to affected landowners and grazing lessees, informing them of the BLM's desire to obtain easements and/or exchanges, which will assist the BLM in designating travel routes to provide easier public access to BLM lands for recreational opportunities. In the effort to be a good neighbor, the Field Office is respecting the demanding schedules of working ranches as it continues to work with them to determine their access needs and their interest in facilitating enhanced public access. The BLM has briefed county commissioners and congressional representatives in routine meetings. The goal of these letters is to open dialogue regarding potential easements/exchanges and come to mutually beneficial agreements with affected landowners. (3/1/18)

[NEW] Late May/early June. BLM-ID. The Four Rivers Field Office is working toward issuing five Final Grazing Decisions for eight allotments in the Bennett Mountain North area. The permittees involved include Tree Top Ranches, LP; Desert View Ranch, LLC; Iron Horse Ranch, LLC; State of Idaho – Idaho State Department of Agriculture; L. G. Davison and Sons, Inc.; and Faulkner Land and Livestock. Four Rivers Field Manager Brent Ralston will sign the decisions. There is the potential for controversy, as there were protests on the proposed decisions, primarily based on a reduction in AUMs identified. The Final Decisions will reflect the previous permitted use, with the caveat that several allotments that have been used significantly lower those permitted levels for the last 10+ years. There is a term and condition limiting annual use to a lower AUM level with the provision that during higher than normal precipitation years (i.e., more vegetation growth), allowed use could reflect total permitted levels with prior Field Manager approval. (5/11/18)

Early June. BLM-ID. BLM Four Rivers Field Office is coordinating with Ada County regarding a county ordinance to eliminate overnight camping within an area of the county that includes BLM-managed lands in the Boise Foothills, within the Ridge to Rivers trail system north of Boise. This area has been getting more use in recent years by people setting up impromptu camps and/or squatting in trailhead parking lots and day-use areas. This county ordinance would reduce conflicts with trail users, and Ada County expects that this will be in effect by June 2018. (4/20/18)

June 1. BLM-ID. Four Rivers Field Office is working with the Nature Conservancy on the planned donation of an 80-acre conservation easement associated with the Hixon Columbia Sharp-Tailed Grouse Area of Critical Environmental Concern that would expand protections on habitat for the Columbia Sharp-Tailed Grouse. The Nature Conservancy is purchasing a conservation easement that they intend to donate to BLM for long-term management. This is expected to be finalized by June 1. (4/10/18)

June 1. BLM-ID. The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes have requested and funded an investigation into the 1873 boundary survey of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation. Specifically, the Tribes assert the easterly boundary of the reservation should have been 30 miles further east, resulting in a shortage of approximately 600,000 acres. The Cadastral Survey investigation has affirmed the 1873 locations of the boundaries, with only minor differences of interpretation of the controlling natural features. Finalization of the report is anticipated June 1, 2018. However, it is

unlikely that the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes will drop their claim for many reasons: First, all metes-and-bounds descriptions are subject to differing interpretations. Second, their claims have been refuted in the past and their pursuit of compensation has persisted. Third, the report will indicate several interpretations of the written description, with the final finding being that the 1873 surveyor applied one interpretation to the conditions on-the-ground, and that interpretation was acceptable to the Surveyor General. The appropriate time to raise a claim pertaining to boundary disputes is when the "error" is first discovered. (4/26/18)

[NEW] June 1. BLM-MT/DK. The BLM intends to implement the new Condition of Approval to address the backlog of Applications for Permits to Drill (APDs) on Indian Trust Lands on the Fort Bethold Indian Reservation in North Dakota. Processing of over 250 APDs has languished because operators have failed to submit all the required paperwork. With Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) concurrence, the BLM historically waited to approve APDs until operators provided documentation they have applied for a new right-of-way (ROW) or have a letter of concurrence for an existing ROW with the BIA. To address this backlog, the BLM and BIA have proposed the following actions: 1) The BLM would approve pending APDs where NEPA analysis has been completed; requiring the operator to obtain a BIA ROW or letter of concurrence from the BIA prior to surface disturbing or drilling activity; and 2) For newly submitted APDs, the BLM will notify operators that they need to submit documentation that a ROW application or a letter requesting concurrence for using an existing ROW has been submitted to BIA to secure APD approval. If the operator fails to submit all necessary documentation within two years, the APD would be denied and returned according to Onshore Order #1. The Tribal Council has endorsed the proposal, and the BLM and the BIA Great Plains Regional Office presented this proposal to operators at a BIA, BLM and State of North Dakota joint operator meeting on April 25. (5/11/18)

[UPDATED] June 1. BLM-NV expects to publish a Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) with mineral segregation for the proposed Yellow Pine Solar Project in Clark County. The proposed project includes 9,290 acres of BLM-managed public lands 32 miles west of Las Vegas and 10 miles southeast of Pahrump, Nev. The Notice is under review in Washington, D.C. (2/21/18) DTS 1722

June 2. BLM-NM. BLM New Mexico Acting State Director Aden Seidlitz will participate at an event to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails System. The event will take place at the newest segment of the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail in Santa Fe, New Mexico. A variety of public trail events and activities will occur throughout the day, including opportunities to hike, bike, and ride horseback along the trail. The project is a partnership of the Federal Highway Administration's Federal Lands Access Program, Santa Fe County, the BLM, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, and City of Santa Fe. (5/4/18)

[NEW] June 3. BLM-WY. The Kemmerer Field Office is working with a new big game hunting outfitter in the final stages of their permit authorization. Dustin Lym with Big Rack Outfitters is requesting to start a big game hunting guide service to take clients out for big game animals such as elk, deer, antelope and moose. The permit will be issued for BLM-managed land only and the outfitter will be required to follow Special Recreation Permit stipulations and special stipulations for the Kemmerer Field Office. The permit is expected to be authorized for the 2018 hunting season starting in October. (5/11/18)

[UPDATED] June 4. BLM-UT. The BLM Moab Field Office intends to initiate scoping and hold public meetings for the Canyon Rims Travel Management Plan effort, which is 90,954 acres in the Hatch Point area, in northern San Juan County. Two public meetings are scheduled: June 13 in Moab and June 14 in Monticello. A press release announcing the meetings is scheduled to be issued on May 16, one month prior to the first public meeting. The scoping period will take place June 4 – July 5. This travel plan is scheduled to be completed by May 2021, as required by the May 31, 2017 Resource Management Plan Settlement Agreement. (4/4/18)

June 4 – 8. BLM-ES proposes transfer by Quiet Title Deed of a former railroad right-of-way (ROW) to the Village of Forsyth, Macon County, Illinois. The transfer was requested by the Village of Forsyth for use as a recreational trail, under authority of the National Trails System Act. The ROW is 200 feet wide and totals approximately 18 acres. This action has been reviewed by the Pittsburgh Field Solicitor's Office and the Washington, D.C. Solicitor's Office. The transfer is supported by Illinois Congressman Rodney Davis (R-13th). (4/20/18)

June 4 – 8. BLM-WY will submit an updated Public Land Order (PLO) for the withdrawal of the Johnny Behind the Rocks (JBR) Recreation Zone near Lander. The proposed PLO would withdraw and close the subject lands to location and entry under the United States Mining Laws, but not from leasing under the mineral or geothermal leasing laws, for a period of 20 years. The JBR Recreation Zone was designated in the 2014 Lander Resource Management Plan to encourage non-motorized recreationists to engage in horseback riding, hiking, trail running, wildlife viewing and mountain biking. The BLM has invested in developing a trails system, parking lot and trail information kiosk with the local Lander Cycling, United States Department Agriculture, Forest Service, Wind River Backcountry Horsemen, Wyoming Conservation Corps, Encana Corporation and the Fremont County Recreation Board. The current trails attract regular usage by local and national recreationists. The temporary segregation created by the proposed application published in the Federal Register on June 10, 2016 (81 FR 37634) will expire on June 9, 2018. The PLO needs to be published by this date. (4/26/18)

June 7. BLM-CO will hold its quarterly oil and gas lease sale. The BLM is offering 64 parcels totaling approximately 58,694 acres in Jackson, Moffat, Rio Blanco and Routt counties. Approximately 30,898 acres are on Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, which could generate controversy. Oil and gas leasing and development in Colorado generated an estimated \$2.9 billion in economic output in fiscal year 2016. (4/24/18)

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

By May 21, BOEM is targeting to publish a notice in the Federal Register, which will extend the comment period of the Atlantic (Offshore Wind) Leasing Path Forward Request for Feedback (RFF) by an additional 45 days to July 5. Requests for the extension were received from two Fishery Management Councils. The notice is currently with ASLM for surnaming. (5/4/18)

On May 21, the BOEM Acting Director and staff from the BOEM Pacific Region will participate in a meeting with the State of California and DOD regarding offshore wind off the coast of California (4/6/18)

[UPDATE] BOEM will publish the 2017 Comprehensive Inventory of OCS Oil and Natural Gas Resources Report to Congress after clearing the Department. This report is required by Section 357 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. It directs the Secretary of the Interior to provide a report to Congress within 6 months of the date of enactment (i.e., Aug. 8, 2005), with updates of at least every 5 years. This report is an update to the 2013 report.

By the end of May 2018, BOEM expects to publish a Request for Competitive Interest for an area proposed to be used for a right-of-way (ROW) project called Atlantic Link. Clean Power Northeast Development, Inc. filed an application on May 31, 2017 (revised August 22, and September 26), for a ROW grant in support of a proposed project connecting onshore wind and hydro power in Canada to the Massachusetts market via a 350 mile HvDC submarine cable traversing the OCS. Emera, parent company to Clean Power Northeast Development, Inc., has recently expressed an interest in slowing down their project timetable. The notice is in surnaming with ASLM.

By late May, BOEM could issue permits for Atlantic G&G activities. In May, BOEM expects that NMFS will publish its Endangered Species Act Biological Opinion for eight Atlantic G&G permit applications under review by BOEM. In testimony on April 26, NMFS indicated it will issue the IHAs in a few weeks, and after the BiOp is complete. It will not issue an IHA for one of the applications, submitted by WesternGeco, as they have not completed the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) consultation for BOEM's permit process. States were notified of the Austin Bridgeport airborne gravity and magnetic permit for CZMA purposes on February 22, 2018. On March 26, 2018, the State of Florida requested through NOAA an unlisted activity review for Austin Bridgeport's permit. NOAA has indicated that the decision to grant the State of Florida a consistency review will be made by May 23, 2018. BOEM's decision on the permits should take approximately three weeks after BiOp completion, and will include issuance of an EA for each permit. (4/12/18)

[UPDATE] In May 2018, Deepwater Wind is expected to submit a Construction and Operations Plan (COP) for their South Fork project located offshore New York. A Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS for this COP is in surnaming. BOEM has deemed the EIS to be unusually complex and is drafting a page limit waiver per the Department's April 27 guidance. The notice is currently with ASLM for surnaming. (4/27/18)

In early June 2018, BOEM and BSEE expect to publish a Notice of Availability for a joint draft Programmatic EA for routine and ongoing oil and gas activities occurring in the Southern California Planning Area. BSEE has commenced the NOA surnaming process including a 30-day public comment period for the draft EA. The Draft Programmatic EA is expected to be published later this spring and the Final Programmatic EA should be complete by the end of FY 2018. (4/6/18)

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

The Arctic Rule: The ASLM is currently reviewing documents to plan a path forward for potential revisions to the Arctic Rule.

The Proposed Production Safety Systems Final Rule (PSSR) (AA37) has cleared the Solicitor's office and was caught in a "on again off again" review by OMB. The final decision is that they are now deeming this rule revision to be of national significance and therefore are asking for the entire package to be submitted to them for review. OMB is allowed a minimum of 60 days for their review, however, that may be extended to 90 days. Inasmuch as this rule in 2016 was not declared of national significance, we don't anticipate any issues with OMB reviewing this rule with limited changes from the 2016 version. Just as a reminder, this is the Final Rule.

Consideration of Pilot Program for ACT Program (Accelerating Compliance Together) - BSEE is currently undertaking a deep dive on data of compliance times with incidents of non-compliance and will be requesting a briefing to the ASLM on this innovative concept to radically accelerate compliance with incidents of non-compliance without costing a single taxpayer penny. A PowerPoint was previously provided for ASLM awareness. A briefing has been rescheduled for **May 9** with ASLM. We look forward to providing the details on this innovative approach.

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

[UPDATE] On or about May 25, 2018, OSMRE plans to submit the Sufco Mine's Greens Hollow Lease Tract mining plan decision document to headquarters for review and approval by the ASLM. The Canyon Fuel Company's Sufco Mine is an underground coal mine located in Sevier and Sanpete Counties, UT. The mine employs 383 people and produces approximately 6 million tons of saleable coal per year. (4/12/2018)

By May 22, 2018, OSMRE will make available \$115M in AML Pilot Funds in accordance with the Consolidated and Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-141). The recipients will include the six Appalachian States (Pennsylvania - \$25 million, Kentucky - \$25 million, West Virginia \$25 million; Ohio - \$10 million, Alabama - \$10 million; Virginia - \$10 million) and the Hopi, Navajo and Crow Tribes will also receive a total of \$10 million.

[UPDATE] The Acting Director concurred in Solicitor's Office recommendation to settle the three Farrell Cooper cases (Liberty 5, Liberty 6 and Rock Island) in accordance with the proposed settlement agreement. The agreement sets out a process under which the government would dismiss the Liberty 5 and Liberty 6 cases; FCMC would produce engineering plans to rectify problems that exist at the FCMC's Rock Island site; FCMC would obtain approval of those plans or of modified versions of those plans from both the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) and the Oklahoma Department of Mines (ODM), the state agency responsible for implementing surface mining regulations in Oklahoma; and FCMC would implement the plans. The district court has granted a stay of litigation until May 24, 2018, in one of the cases, pending finalization of the settlement agreement that would resolve issues in all three cases. DOJ will move forward with settlement (May 7, 2018)

[UPDATE] On or about May 25, 2018, OSMRE will publish a Notice of Availability (NOA) for the San Juan Mine Deep Lease Extension mining plan modification Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) in the *Federal Register*. OSMRE provided an oral briefing on the DEIS to the Deputy Secretary and other members of the Departmental Review Team as part of the NEPA document clearance process, on May 3, 2018. The briefing was well received and the Deputy Secretary and the Review Team approved moving forward with publication of the NOA and

DEIS. The San Juan Mine is located approximately 4 miles northeast of Waterflow and 15 miles west of Farmington, in San Juan County, New Mexico. The mine employs 360 people and currently produces approximately 6 million tons of saleable coal per year. (3/28/2018)

15-60 Day Look-Ahead

Bureau of Land Management

[NEW] June 8 – 25. BLM-ID. The BLM Challis Field Office expects to post the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Spar Canyon Right of Way on ePlanning the week of June 8, with an anticipated signed Decision Record and Finding of No Significant Impact from both BLM and BPA released the week of June 25. In 2014, BPA proposed to improve the access road system for its existing Spar Canyon-Round Valley transmission line located on BLM-managed land in Custer County. BPA and BLM are working on the NEPA document together. BPA's proposal would involve constructing 4-6 miles of new road, reinforcing road crossings at drainages with rock, and acquiring access rights from BLM for new road use. This decision includes required mitigation related to sage-grouse Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment for approximately 4.4 acres. BPA supports the mitigation plan and is working with the Governor's Office of Species Conservation to contribute funding for an off-site mitigation project. (5/11/18)

[UPDATED] June 9. BLM-NM is proposing to invite the public to visit Sabinoso Wilderness for National Get Outdoors Day, a new annual event to encourage healthy, active outdoor fun. Sabinoso Wilderness recently became accessible to the public for hunting, fishing, and other recreational activities. The 16,000-acre Sabinoso was previously wholly surrounded by non-federal land making it inaccessible to the general public. Access to this remote area was made possible by the acceptance of a donation by Secretary Zinke of 3,595 acres adjacent to Sabinoso Wilderness. The event will include organized hikes for the public in the Wilderness. (4/26/18)

[NEW] June 12. BLM-NV will hold an online oil and gas lease sale for parcels in the Battle Mountain District. Leases on 166 parcels totaling 313,715.31 acres will be auctioned in Eureka, Lander and Nye Counties. The protest period ended May 7. Four protests have been received from the following groups: Basin and Range Watch, Center for Biological Diversity, Wild Earth Guardians, and the Wilderness Society. (5/11/18)

June 12. BLM-UT will hold a quarterly oil and gas lease sale. The Color Country District posted the Notice of Competitive Lease Sale on April 26, 2018. The public protest period will end on May 7, 2018. The district proposes to lease four parcels totaling approximately 3,788 acres in Wayne, Sevier and Beaver counties, Utah. The June lease sale also includes eight parcels in the Vernal Field Office that were sold during the December 2017 oil and gas lease sale but for which timely payment was not made by the successful bidder. As outlined under 43 CFR 3120.5-3C, the BLM must consider re-offering the parcels at the next feasible lease sale. The Vernal Field Office completed a Determination of NEPA Adequacy based on the EA prepared for the December 2017 lease sale and the BLM is re-offering the eight parcels. (4/26/18)

June 14. BLM-CA. The 90-day public comment period will end for the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Draft Land Use Plan Amendment for the West

Mojave Route Network Project. The Draft Supplemental EIS addresses proposed solutions for adaptive and responsible travel management planning and recreational use — including off-highway vehicle access — within the West Mojave planning area, while protecting important resources. (4/20/18)

[NEW] June 15. BLM-CA. Bakersfield Field Office staff will meet at Case Mountain Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA) with representatives of local Native American tribes to discuss the final details in the process to designate approximately 110 miles of multi-use, non-motorized trails. Case Mountain ERMA attracts a diverse group of public land users and is especially popular with recreationalists who come to enjoy the Sierra foothills scenery and challenging single-track trail system. (5/11/18)

[NEW] Mid-June. BLM-ID is formalizing the partnership between the BLM and the Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (BHA) to establish a general framework for cooperation concerning illegal activities like trash dumping and off-road abuse resulting in natural resource damage on public lands in Idaho. The partnership will focus on BHA and BLM working cooperatively to inform the public of the problems caused by illegal activity. BHA has offered to establish a rewards program as an incentive for the public to report incidences of illegal dumping and off-road abuse on public lands. The BLM will provide a “hotline” reporting number that law enforcement will monitor and then follow up with the reporting party to acquire details of the incident and determine if further investigation is required. An MOU signing is anticipated for mid-June. (5/11/18)

[NEW] Mid-June. BLM-UT. The Cedar City Field Office will release for public review and comment an Environmental Assessment analyzing a proposal to gather excess wild horses from the North Hills Joint Management Area multiple times over a 10-year period. The initial gather would include removal of excess wild horses. Subsequent gathers could include population control actions such as fertility vaccine treatments and adjustments of stud-to-mare ratio. The joint management area is approximately 74,000 acres in size and consists of the North Hills Herd Management Area and North Hills Wild Horse Territory in the BLM Cedar City Field Office and the Forest Service Pine Valley Ranger District. Current estimated population is 212 with a projected number of 254 by February 2019. The BLM proposes to gather and remove approximately 214 horses to reach the low Appropriate Management Level of 40. This gather will most likely not be controversial, as it is supported by local permittees. (5/11/18)

[NEW] June 20 – 21. BLM-WY. The BLM Wyoming State Office will hold its quarterly online oil and gas lease sale, which will include 162 parcels totaling 198,589 acres. BLM-WY received nominations for 178 parcels containing 227,503 acres. One whole parcel and portions of three additional parcels totaling 2,212 acres were deferred because they are located in the State of Wyoming Version 4 Core Area Maps, but are not in Priority Habitat Management Areas in the BLM Greater Sage-Grouse Approved Resource Management Plans. (Version 4 Core area maps are the most recent maps produced by the state of Wyoming identifying priority habitat management areas for Greater Sage-grouse, also known as core areas.) Twelve additional whole parcels and portions of six additional parcels were deleted because they are closed to leasing in the Approved Resource Management Plans. Forty-four parcels totaling 57,480 acres are located in Greater Sage-Grouse Priority Habitat Management Areas. Eighty-nine parcels totaling 99,255

acres are located within General Habitat Management Areas. Thirty parcels totaling 42,563 acres have portions located in both Priority and General habitat Management Areas.. (5/11/18)

[UPDATE] June 21. BLM-ES will hold a competitive online oil and gas lease sale of 24 parcels, all of which are split estate with private surface. The combined parcels total 2,202.87 acres and are located in Cleburne and Van Buren Counties, Arkansas. The sale noticed was published on April 10, beginning a 10-day protest period that ended April 20. No protests have been received. BLM-ES issued an amendment to the sale notice on April 30, adding a split-estate 5-acre tract in Louisiana to the sale. (4/11/18)

June 21 – 24. BLM-AK. The Glennallen Field Office will partner with Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing to host wounded veterans in the Delta Wild and Scenic River corridor. This event provides physical and emotional rehabilitation for wounded soldiers, veterans, and their families. Participants will exercise fly-fishing techniques honed over winter and experience the rich, aquatic habitat of the Delta Wild and Scenic River and Tangle Lakes Archaeological District. www.projecthealingwaters.org (5/4/18)

June 24. BLM-ID. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS), through the BLM, is requesting approval of a Public Land Order (PLO) that would withdraw 107.02 acres of USFS-administered lands within the Salmon-Challis National Forest from settlement, sale, location or entry under the public land laws, including the U.S. mining laws, for a period of 20 years. The purpose of the withdrawal is to conserve the hydrologic values and fishery in the Salmon River watershed through protection of the USFS Dump Creek Diversion Ditch, a \$2.4-million canal that is part of a larger infrastructure network designed to protect recreational opportunities on the Salmon River. The land was segregated from the mining laws through 81 CFR 41333, which will automatically expire on June 24, 2018, after which the lands will be open to location and entry under the U.S. mining laws. No controversy regarding the withdrawal is expected. The USFS completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) and offered to hold public meetings through local papers and the Federal Register. No groups or individuals requested a public meeting, and no substantial comments were received on the EA. (5/4/18) DTS Lands 167

June 27 – 28. BLM-NV. The Mojave-Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council proposes to meet in Caliente, NV. Agenda items include updates on the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area recreation fee business plan, utility and transmission corridors planning updates, wildlife management and a tour of the Lincoln County Trail System. (4/20/18)

June 30. BLM-CA. Bakersfield Field Office staff will participate in a U.S. Forest Service-led public meeting on four Applications for Permit to Drill in the Sespe oilfield in Fillmore, Calif. The Forest Service is the lead federal agency conducting the NEPA and the meeting is expected to generate much public interest, including previous interest from U.S. Rep. Julia Brownley's (CA-26-D) office, due to the wells being in a national forest and near a California condor sanctuary. (2/9/18)

[NEW] In June. BLM-CA. The Barstow Field Office anticipates release of a Street Legal Only Environmental Assessment for County-maintained roads on BLM-managed public lands in San Bernardino County. This action is at the request of the County, and initiates a 30-day public comment period. The BLM portion of the roads maintained by the County are not covered by

any BLM authorization. The BLM has been in discussions with the County concerning obtaining proper right-of-way authorization. (5/11/18)

In June. BLM-CA. The Bureau of Land Management is looking to publish in the Federal Register a 60-day notice to seek public comment on a proposed direct sale of 70 acres of public land in San Bernardino County to OMYA Inc., a global producer of calcium carbonate and distributor of specialty chemicals. The proposed land sale would allow the company to continue mining the high-calcium limestone deposits in the area through 2055, resolve past unauthorized mining operations, and meet OMYA's need for additional land. This proposal would also be consistent with the Amended Mining and Reclamation Plan approved by the County of San Bernardino. Located in the vicinity of Lucerne Valley, OMYA Inc.'s mining operation generates more than \$800,000 per year in county taxes and provides jobs for approximately 100 workers from the surrounding communities. (4/20/18)

[UPDATED] In June. BLM-CO. The Little Snake Field Office and Northwest District plan to announce a public scoping period in June for a summer bait-trap wild horse gather in the Sand Wash Basin Herd Management Area (HMA). The proposed gather is under review in Washington, D.C. The appropriate management level for the HMA is between 163 and 362 wild horses. The BLM estimates the population in the HMA exceeds 700 horses. The Field Office and district have been working closely with a local partner group—the Sand Wash Advocacy Team—to treat mares with fertility control to slow the population growth. (3/16/18)

In June. BLM-CO. The Gunnison Field Office (GFO) is preparing a Notice of Availability (NOA) and preliminary Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on its proposed Resource Management Plan Amendment to assess domestic sheep permit renewals on 16 livestock grazing allotments in Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray and San Juan counties. The EIS evaluates reducing contact between domestic sheep on BLM-managed lands and wild sheep populations to minimize disease transmission. GFO is planning for a June 2018 publication (pending WO and DOI approval) in the Federal Register. (4/11/18)

[UPDATED] In June. BLM-ES will submit a Federal Register notice for a solicitation for bids for a competitive 10-year renewable lease of the Equestrian Facility at the Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) near Lorton, Va. The lease will be issued under Section 302 of the Federal Land and Policy Management Act (FLPMA), and 43 CFR 2920. Issuance of the lease will bring BLM-ES in compliance with BLM IM 2016-030, "Guidance for Issuing Commercial Leases for Recreation-Related Businesses," promulgated in response to the Office of Inspector General's March 30, 2015 report, "Review of Bureau of Land Management's Concession Management Practices." (4/20/18)

In June. BLM-ID. The Four Rivers Field Office is working with the Land Trust of Treasure Valley (LTTV) on the acquisition of 560 acres in the Boise Foothills. The LTTV purchased the property in February 2018 and will transfer the parcel to the BLM through a bargain sale agreement. BLM Idaho intends to use FY17 Land and Water Conservation Fund Recreation Access funds for this purchase. These funds were available because the appraisal for another FY17 project came in lower than expected, which resulted in excess funds. The property is a critical piece that will provide public access to public lands in the Stack Rock area from the Avimor trail system. This property was identified in the Ridge to Rivers 10-Year Management

Plan (in which the BLM is a managing partner) as a high-priority objective for obtaining public access for hunters and other recreationists. The property is also important winter range for big game, especially elk, and is in the most popular big game hunting unit in Idaho. The LTTV issued a press release on April 4 regarding their purchase of this property. A BLM press release will likely be issued in June when scoping is initiated, and again when the purchase takes place in late summer or early fall 2018. This final release could include statements from the Secretary, the BLM, the City of Boise, and/or Avimor. (4/4/18)

In June. BLM-MT/DK. The Missoula Field Office will hold the Black Sheep Timber Sale to salvage timber from BLM lands within the perimeter of the Little Hogback fire near Ram Mountain. The Little Hogback fire burned 43,733 acres in July 2017, of which 3,766 acres was on BLM-administered lands managed by the Missoula Field Office. The Field Office will be salvaging fire-burned and beetle-killed timber from 250 acres within the fire perimeter. The Field Office anticipates a yield of 1,500 to 2,000 MBF, which equates to about 500 log truckloads. This sale is not expected to generate any controversy. (3/16/18)

In June. BLM-NV. The Secretary of the Interior will be requested to sign the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) Round 17 projects for funding. There are two Nevada signing event options: 1) Southern Nevada at Bureau of Reclamation for their Round 17 Capital Improvement Program (more than \$10 million at the dam); or 2) Northern Nevada at BLM-NV land acquisition (\$4.5 million - providing new recreation opportunity) and nearby fuels projects (\$5 million). The Executive Committee for SNPLMA requested the Secretary of the Interior approve \$78,002,276 of funding, including \$5 million for a Special Account Reserve and an additional \$3.2 million for SNPLMA Round 16B Craig Ranch Regional Park—a 20.57-acre acquisition project. SNPLMA funding advances the Secretary's priorities by creating a conservation stewardship legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt; restoring trust and being a good neighbor; modernizing our infrastructure; achieving our goals; and leading our team forward. (3/23/18)

[UPDATED] In June. BLM-UT. The Moab Field Office will issue an EA for a 30-day public comment period. The EA analyzes a proposal from Grand County to create a small detention basin on public lands as part of a flood control project near the south end of Moab, Utah. Past flooding has affected local neighborhoods and U.S. Route 191 in this area. The construction of the basin will entail a minor reroute of an existing mountain bike connector trail. (4/20/18)

[UPDATED] In June. BLM-UT. The Moab Field Office intends to issue a decision authorizing a Special Recreation Permit to Pinnacle Helicopters LLC for a shuttle service for river clients from the Canyonlands Field Airport to Mineral Bottom Airstrip. The proposal is controversial due to potential impacts to other visitors' experiences, and an unrelated proposal from the same company to also conduct helicopter shuttles in Blue John Canyon, immediately south of Canyonlands National Park and near the Horseshoe Canyon Wilderness Study Area managed by the BLM Richfield Field Office. That request garnered regional media attention. (3/7/18)

In June. BLM-UT. The BLM Moab Field Office intends to issue an Environmental Assessment (EA) for public comment on Lisbon Valley Mining Company's proposal to expand two excavation pits and add a buried electrical line at the Lisbon Valley Copper Mine. Total additional disturbance on BLM land is approximately 37 acres. Mining was first approved in

1997 and current mine operations cover over 1,100 acres of BLM, State, and private lands. The BLM anticipates the consultation process will include a Memorandum of Agreement. The project is not within the boundary of Bears Ears National Monument, and historically, projects at the Lisbon Valley Mine have not been controversial with the public. (4/11/18)

In June or July. BLM-UT. The Salt Lake Field Office will finalize the Skull Valley land exchange. This exchange is a single-transaction, multi-parcel exchange wherein the United States would convey 12,603.27 acres of Federal land for 11,586.32 acres of non-Federal land. The exchange would consolidate Federal and non-Federal ownership, provide management efficiency, and increase public access opportunities. The BLM would acquire 3,598 acres of mule deer crucial range, 1,417 acres of pronghorn crucial range, a 120-acre portion of the Pony Express National Historic Trail, and 587 acres of inholdings within the Cedar Mountain Wilderness Area. This acquisition of lands in a wilderness area would be important for providing improved public access to an area that is popular with hunters, minimizing the complexity of BLM's fire suppression responsibility in a fire-prone area, and reducing the burden to a private landowner with inholdings in a wilderness area. (4/11/18)

July 8. BLM-CO. The 90-day public review period will close for the Little Snake Field Office's 1,870-mile route inventory across 638,195 acres of BLM-managed land. The review period began on April 9, 2018. This is the third and final Field Office travel management area to undergo this first public step of travel management. The public is being asked to review the inventory for accuracy and completeness, giving them the opportunity to help finalize a working map of the routes for the planning effort. The public will have several opportunities for review as the process to designate routes progresses over the next year. (3/30/18)

July 9. BLM-UT. The Fillmore Field Office expects to approve a Plan of Operations for the Scipio Pass Quarry located in Millard County. A Plan of Operations for this new project was submitted on April 17, 2018, by Clyde Companies. The Fillmore Field Office will provide comments to Clyde prior to the regulatory 30-day deadline. The 120-acre quarry will produce limestone aggregate for highway construction projects, so it has potential for local employment and therefore, local support. This project may become controversial due to its size and proximity to Interstate 15 at Scipio Pass and it is anticipated that environmental organizations and Tribes may not support the project. Potential issues include visual, cultural, air quality, and wildlife. The Plan of Operations and subsequent Environmental Assessment will include public review and comment. (4/26/18)

July 12 – 17. The Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) 2018 Annual Conference will be held in Eugene, Oregon. This Annual Conference will bring together over 300 U.S. and Canadian fish and wildlife regulators to discuss shared biological, management, and land use issues. This event attracts professional fish and wildlife biologists (including commissioners and directors from over 20 states), managers, administrators, and others in fish and wildlife related fields. The BLM generally sends a small delegation. A conference approval package is being prepared. (4/26/18)

July 17 – 18. BLM-NV. The Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council (RAC) proposes to hold a meeting in Elko. Agenda items include wildfire and wildlife management, district reports and a presentation on the IL Ranch conservation program. The RAC will take a

field trip on the second day to the IL Ranch, a facility owned and operated by Newmont Mining Company. The field trip will include a tour of the ranch and associated facilities and an update on the ranch's habitat restoration projects. (4/20/18)

July 20. BLM-ID. The Bruneau Field Office is considering whether to renew the Battle Creek, East Castle Creek, and Owens grazing allotments in Owyhee County for a term of 10 years. The area covers 244,529 acres and there are nine affected permittees. An Environmental Assessment (EA) is being prepared to disclose and analyze the impacts of renewing the grazing permits. The EA will provide a range of alternatives aimed at flexible and economically sustainable grazing authorizations, adaptive management, opportunities to reduce cheatgrass, and enhancing riparian areas. The proposed decisions on whether to renew the grazing permits are anticipated to be issued by July 20. (5/4/18)

July 20 – 30. BLM-CO will issue the sale notice and 10-day protest period for the Sep. 6, 2018 oil and gas lease sale for 25 parcels totaling approximately 217,622 acres in Huerfano, Kiowa, Lincoln, Washington and Weld Counties. Eleven parcels totaling approximately 18,358 acres in Huerfano County outside and east of Great Sand Dunes National Park's boundary have received significant media coverage. The Huerfano County parcels, because of their proximity to Great Sand Dunes National Park, have generated ongoing controversy since the public comment period for the sale's environmental assessment was announced. The announcement date and length of the protest period follows guidance in IM 2018-034. (4/4/18)

July 22 – 26. BLM-OR/WA. The Rural Sociological Society's national meeting will take place in Portland, Ore. During the meeting, Burns District BLM Manager Jeff Rose will participate in a panel discussion that will address local, regional, and national implications of the 2016 Malheur occupation, with a particular focus on science and its relationship with environmental concerns, tribal rights, livelihoods, populism, fairness, and other questions in public lands management. Jeff Rose is currently working on his remarks for the meeting. (4/11/18)

July 26. BLM-NV staff will give a presentation to the Nevada State Legislative Committee on Public Lands in Battle Mountain. The topic will be an update on BLM activities in northern Nevada. This meeting was rescheduled from March 2, when it was postponed due to inclement weather. (4/11/18)

[NEW] July 29. BLM-NV. A temporary closure order is proposed to go into effect for the annual Burning Man event on the Black Rock Desert. The temporary closure provides protection for public safety and resources before, during, and after the event. The closure area is focused on the event site only and leaves the vast majority of the Black Rock Playa open for public use. The Federal Register notice announcing the closure would be published on June 22. (5/11/18) DTS 2121

In July. BLM-NM. The BLM expects to publish the Farmington Mancos-Gallup Draft Resource Management Plan Amendment (RMPA) and begin a 90-day public comment period. The plan will address issues relating to oil and gas development in the Mancos Shale/Gallup Formation. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is a joint lead agency in this planning effort. The scope of BLM and BIA decisions being evaluated are limited to fluid mineral leasing and development; lands and realty (including land use authorizations for BLM); vegetation

(including vegetation treatments for BLM); and lands with wilderness characteristics (BLM only). Stakeholder positions vary on the Mancos-Gallup RMPA and include support for additional opportunities for fluid mineral development as well as concerns about protecting cultural resources associated with the Chaco culture (greater Chaco landscape); negative impacts to Native communities (traditional lifeways); and potential impacts to air, water, and land health. Approximately 95% of public comments reflect public interest in preserving the Chaco landscape, protecting Native communities, and ensuring healthy water and air supplies. The Mancos-Gallup RMPA planning area has approximately 2.2 million acres of Federal mineral estate and 1.3 million acres of BLM-managed surface lands. The RMPA will also support BIA decisions on approximately 1.6 million acres, where BIA has mineral leasing authority. (4/26/18)

In July. BLM-UT. The BLM Moab Field Office intends to issue two EAs for public review and comment. The two EAs analyze potential impacts of proposed grazing permit renewals as follows: 1) Seven allotments totaling approximately 55,470 acres in the Dolores Triangle area of Grand County, and 2) Two allotments totaling approximately 18,400 acres in northern San Juan County in the Lisbon Valley area. These proposals are not controversial with the public but are controversial with Western Watersheds Project and groups associated with them just by the nature that they deal with grazing. (4/4/18)

In July. BLM-UT. The BLM-UT State Office will terminate the San Rafael Swell Master Leasing Plan Amendment process. Since the publication of the Notice of Intent for this plan, BLM Washington Office Instruction Memo 2018-034 was issued, terminating the Master Leasing Plan process. A Federal Register Notice of Termination has been submitted to WO-630 for processing. There are no plans for a press release or public meeting as this is an administrative action. (4/26/18) DTS 2105

August 1. BLM-MT/DK. The Western Montana District is proposing to complete a fee purchase acquisition using approved Land and Water Conservation Fund funding in the amount of \$1,025,000. The privately owned 307.57-acre parcel is located 23 miles south of Ennis, Montana. The parcel lies adjacent to BLM-administered lands (Dillon Field Office) within the Upper River Special Recreation Management Area along the Madison River. There would be increased access to 880 acres of BLM-managed lands, which would provide approximately 4.5 miles of additional access to the Madison River. The proposed date for this acquisition is Aug. 1, 2018. Willing landowners would like to complete the transaction as soon as possible. The Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks and Madison County Commissioners support the BLM acquiring the private parcel. An appraisal, NEPA analysis, and Endangered Species Act work have been completed. No controversy is expected. (3/7/18)

August 2. The public comment period ends for the six state Draft Greater Sage-grouse Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) that were published in the Federal Register on May 4. Secretarial Order 3355, issued on August 1, 2017, directed DOI agencies to "... complete each Final EIS ... within 1 year from the issuance of a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS." Six states are producing EISs reflecting planning amendment changes. (4/26/18)

Bureau of Offshore Energy Management

Marine Hydrokinetic offshore Oregon: BOEM is considering issuance of a lease to the Northwest National Marine Renewable Energy Center at Oregon State University (NNMREC-OSU) for the PMEC-SETS, a marine and hydrokinetic (MHK) test site offshore Newport, Oregon. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is the lead federal agency on the proposed project since it is a MHK project requiring a FERC license to operate. BOEM will be a cooperating agency on the NEPA document that will address both lease and license issuance. In Dec 2017, DOE awarded a \$40 million grant to PMEC-SETS to complete design, permitting and construction on the national wave energy testing facility. Oregon State has submitted a draft application to FERC and the region will be reviewing. (4/27/18)

On March 23, BOEM submitted a memorandum summarizing recommendations to ASLM in response to a requirement of Secretarial Order No. 3359 “Federal Strategy to Ensure Secure and Reliable Supplies of Critical Minerals” to submit to the Secretary a list of recommendations to improve access to lands to explore for and develop critical minerals; streamline permitting processes related to critical minerals development; and otherwise increase critical minerals discovery, production, and domestic refining. BOEM is also participating in the National Science and Technology Council Subcommittee on Critical and Strategic Mineral Supply Chains, which is developing a report in response to a requirement of Executive Order No. 13817 which was the impetus for S.O. 3359. BOEM currently awaits feedback from ASLM on the S.O. response and is drafting a contribution to the Subcommittee report for the E.O. (4/27/18)

[NEW] On April 30, BOEM received a Right of Way (ROW) application for the New York and New Jersey Ocean Grid project submitted by Anbaric Development Partners. The ROW would allow Anbaric to collect and distribute power from existing offshore wind leases to up to six terrestrial landings from Long Island, NY to Cardiff, NJ using an HVDC submarine system approximately 213 statute miles in length with nine offshore AC to DC collector/converter platforms. BOEM is currently analyzing legal, technical, and financial qualifications.

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

[UPDATE] By June 30, 2018, OSMRE expects the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to complete a lease for the Oklahoma Federal Lands: Pollyanna #8 coal mine permit revision. The applicant's existing coal reserves are expected to be depleted in less than 12 months; therefore, the additional coal reserve is needed to ensure continuous operations. BLM has finalized the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the coal lease on the expansion of the underground mine and is expected to have the draft lease completed in the upcoming weeks. With finalization of the leasing documents, OSMRE will be working on the development of a Mine Plan Decision Document (MPDD). Based upon OSMRE’s close coordination with BLM during the development of the EA for the lease, we anticipate being able to adopt large portions of their EA for our MPDD. Future steps will include evaluation of the BLM EA for determination of NEPA adequacy, developing a Notice of Intent to Prepare an EA, if needed, expected to be completed within 2 weeks following draft lease, followed by developing the EA and posting it for public review. Depending upon how much of the BLM EA that is adopted, the MPDD could be completed by July 31, 2018. (4/3/2018)

By June 30, 2018, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is expected to have an Interdisciplinary Team meeting for the development of the NEPA document and coal lease

package for the Liberty #8 coal mine. The new lease by application covers 1,620 acres of surface mining activities. OSMRE is expected to be a cooperating agency on the NEPA document. The purpose of the meeting would be to discuss with the mining company processing procedures, outline NEPA responsibilities, the development of a schedule associated with leasing and the process of a mining plan decision document. As BLM is the lead on arranging this meeting we will report further on this issue when we become aware of more specific details. (4/3/2018)

Pending State approval of the permit revision on or around June 15, OSMRE plans to submit the Falkirk Mine's mining plan decision document to headquarters for review and approval by the ASLM on or around June 25, 2018. Falkirk Mining Company's Falkirk Coal Mine is a surface coal mine located in McLean County, ND. The mine employs 412 full-time employees and 118 temporary employees and produces approximately 8 – 8.5 million tons of coal per year. (3/15/2018)

On March 6, 2018, OSMRE was notified by BLM of a new lease by application for Federal coal in Haskell County, Oklahoma. Evans-McCurtain Mine would include approximately 1,300 acres. BLM is expected to have an Interdisciplinary Team meeting for the development of the NEPA document and coal lease package for Evans-McCurtain by June 30, 2018. The remaining reserves on the proposed lease are recoverable only by underground methods. Coal thickness will dictate the use of continuous miner units or, possibly, a plow longwall. As BLM is the lead on arranging this meeting we will report further on this issue when we become aware of more specific details. (4/3/2018)

[NEW] BLM has provided a draft MOU to OSMRE and to the Oklahoma Department of Mines (ODM), requesting our participation in BLM's NEPA review process relating to Federal coal mineral leasing. Differing from previous MOUs between BLM and OSMRE in the Mid-Continent Region, which were issued project by project, this document is intended to serve as an umbrella MOU for all related BLM coal mineral leasing activities in the state of Oklahoma. As indicated this new draft MOU also formally includes ODM as a cooperating agency as well. OSMRE is currently reviewing the draft MOU and hopes to have comments ready for return to BLM within the next few weeks. As the draft MOU progresses through review OSMRE would anticipate that it likely would be ready to sign a final document by June 30, 2018. (5/7/2018)

Awareness

No updates to report.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR POLICY, MANAGEMENT, AND BUDGET

Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Hearings, and Travel

On May 21-25, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget, with the delegated authority of the Assistant Secretary, Scott Cameron will be in Washington, DC, and participating in routine internal briefings.

Deputy Assistant Secretary - Public Safety, Resource Protection and Emergency Services (DAS PRE)

[NEW] On May 17, Office of Wildland Fire (OWF) Director Jeff Rupert and U.S. Forest Acting Chief Vicki Christiansen will brief staff from the Senate Energy and Natural Committee on the outlook for the upcoming fire season. (05/16/2018)

On May 22, Office of Wildland Fire (OWF) Director Jeff Rupert will attend the Wildland Fire IT (WFIT) Executive Board Meeting at the Main Interior Building. (04/23/2018)

Immediate Announcements and Actions (within the next 14 days)

Deputy Assistant Secretary - Public Safety, Resource Protection and Emergency Services (DAS PRE)

From May 29 - June 1, Office of Wildland Fire (OWF) Director Jeff Rupert will attend the National Association of State Foresters (NASF) Wildfire Committee Meeting in Napa, CA to discuss high priority items affecting wildland fire management. (04/13/2018)

From May 29 - June 1, Interior Inter-agency Borderland Coordinator, Brent Range will attend an inter-agency site visit to Rio Grande Valley, TX. During the site visit the group will travel to the FY18 funded new wall construction sites to discuss issues and solutions. (05/08/2018)

15-60 Day Look-Ahead

From June 18-20, PDAS Scott Cameron will be in Denver and Wyoming to participate in an Interior Business Center (IBC) building reopening with the GSA Administrator at the Denver Federal Center, participate in an employee listening session and related activities associated with implementing the PMB workplace harassment action plan, and visiting with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), US Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Department of Defense (DOD), and Wyoming state and private partners on cooperative rangeland management of invasive weeds. (05/02/2018)

Deputy Assistant Secretary - Public Safety, Resource Protection and Emergency Services (DAS PRE)

[NEW] On June 4, Office of Wildland Fire (OWF) Director Jeff Rupert and U.S. Forest Acting Chief Vicki Christiansen will brief staff from the House Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee on Federal Lands on the outlook for the upcoming fire season. (05/16/2018)

From June 4 - 7, Office of Wildland Fire (OWF) Director Jeff Rupert will attend the Intertribal Timber Council (ITC) National Indian Timber Symposium in Ocean Shores, WA to discuss high priority items affecting wildland fire management. (04/23/2018)

[NEW] On June 5, Office of Wildland Fire (OWF) Director will testify before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee at an oversight hearing on wildland fire management. U.S. Forest Service Acting Chief Vicki Christiansen will also testify. (05/16/2018)

From June 11 - 14, Office of Wildland Fire (OWF) Director Jeff Rupert will attend the Wildland Fire Leadership Council Meeting in Colorado Springs, CO to discuss high priority items affecting wildland fire management. (04/23/2018)

[NEW] From June 18 - 22, the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) will host approximately 50 members of the DOI emergency management community at the annual Emergency Management Council (EMC) Off-Site Workshop at NCTC. The workshop provides a forum for information sharing and collaboration on a number of overarching issues and will include a combination of keynote speakers, presentations, and working sessions. (05/16/2018)

Deputy Assistant Secretary – Human Capital and Diversity

On July 4, the Honor Awards Convocation will be held in the Main Interior Building Auditorium. 62 employees will be recognized for their outstanding contributions and achievements. Consistent with the Departmental policy, the only awardees recognized at the convocation includes recipients of the Distinguished Service Awards, Valor Awards, Safety and Health Awards of Excellence, Aviation Safety Awards, and Citizen's Awards for Bravery. (05/09/18)

Awareness

Based on the vacancy of the Human Capital and Diversity Deputy Assistant Secretary (HCD DAS) position and the Policy and Environmental Management (PEM) DAS position, PDAS Scott Cameron plans to sign a memo temporarily detailing the offices from the HCD DAS and the PEM DAS to the Deputy Assistant Secretaries that will formally inherit those offices once Congress approves DOI's FY 2019 budget request. The effective date of the detailing would be May 28. (04/25/2018)

Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR)

[UPDATE] The Royalty Policy Committee will conduct its next public meeting on June 6, 2018, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. On June the 5th, the sectors will meet to review their presentations for the public meeting. On June the 6, the full Committee will meet to present recommendations, hold public comment, debate, and vote on recommendations to the Secretary. **The meeting notice has been delivered to the Federal Register.** (05/16/18)

Deputy Assistant Secretary – Budget, Finance, Performance and Acquisition (DAS BFPA)

[(UPDATE)] The Department recently awarded **56.50%** of its contract award dollars to small businesses. The Department-wide small business goal, which was negotiated with the Small Business Administration, is 51.1%. The Department awarded **24.85%** of its contract award dollars to Small Disadvantaged Businesses and **14.09%** of its contract award dollars to Women-Owned Small Businesses, exceeding the statutory goal of 5% for each. The Department awarded

4.52% of its contract award dollars to Historically Underutilized Business Zone Small Businesses and 4.02% of its contract award dollars to Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses. The statutory goal is 3% for each of these categories. (05/16/18)

[NEW] The Government Accountability Office (GAO) recently announced three engagements in response to requests from the Chair and Ranking Member of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; Chair and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Federal Spending, Oversight and Emergency Management; Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; the Chair and Ranking Member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform; and the Ranking Member of the Committee on Homeland Security:

- I. “U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico Disaster Recovery Plans” (Job Code 102654)
 - II. “Restoration and Resilience of U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico Electric Grids” (Job Code 102609)
 - III. “Community Development Block Grant Disaster Assistance” (Job Code 102592).
- (05/16/18)

[NEW] The Government Accountability Office (GAO) recently released “Combating Wildlife Trafficking: Opportunities Exist to Improve the Use of Financial Rewards” (GAO-18-279) in response to a request from Ranking Member Ron Wyden of the Senate Finance Committee. The GAO reviewed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s (FWS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) in the: (1) ability to pay rewards for information on wildlife trafficking and the extent of such rewards from FY 2007 through FY 2017; (2) reward policies; (3) information available to the public on rewards; and (4) review of the effectiveness of their use of rewards. In the report, GAO issued four recommendations: (1) FWS track reward information; (2) augment its reward policy to specify factors for agents to consider when developing proposed reward amounts; (3) develop plans to communicate more reward information to the public; and (4) review the effectiveness of its reward use. The Department's sixty-day letter addressing the recommendations is due July 9, 2018. (5/16/18)

[NEW] The Government Accountability Office (GAO) recently released “Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund: NOAA Should Track Its Endangered Species Act and Lacey Act Collections and Request Any Required Deposits” (GAO-18-346R) in response to a request from Ranking Member Ron Wyden of the Senate Finance Committee. This report provides information on how NOAA tracks its collections specific to the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Lacey Act violations. While issuing the Departments no recommendations, GAO recommends NOAA develop and implement a mechanism to track agency collections for ESA and Lacey violations, and requests that the Secretary of the Treasury make any required deposits to the Fund. No further action is required. (5/16/18)

[NEW] The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) recently released “U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration (WSFR) Program Grants Awarded to the State of Nebraska, Game and Parks Commission From July 1, 2014 Through June 30, 2016” (2017-EXT-059). This report presents the results of the OIG’s audit of costs claimed by the State of Nebraska, Game and Parks Commission under WSFR grants awarded by FWS. While finding the State generally complied with applicable grant accounting and regulatory requirements, the

OIG observed a minor condition in that the State classified its WSFR Program service and cooperative agreements as contracts when they should have been classified as sub-awards. No response is required, as the OIG did not identify any reportable conditions. (5/16/18)

[NEW] The Government Accountability Office (GAO) has 59 ongoing engagements at the Department, and the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) has 64. (05/16/18)

ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR WATER AND SCIENCE

Week Ahead Schedule of Meetings, Hearings, and Travel

Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Tim Petty will be in the DC area the week of May 21-25. He will participate in several internal meetings and briefings, and on May 22 will provide remarks to the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group webinar (open public meeting). On May 23, ASWS and Reclamation leadership will meet with representatives of Family Farm Alliance.

During the week of May 20, PDAS/WS Andrea Travnicek will staff Secretary Zinke during a trip to North Dakota. USGS-related activities/site visits include the Williston Basin Petroleum Conference in Bismarck, ND, the USGS North Dakota Water Science Center, the Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, and local research sites for pollinators and wetlands research. Reclamation-related activities include a tour of the Snake Creek Pumping Plant and stops along the McClusky Canal, with possible opportunities for discussions with stakeholders.

On May 20-26, USGS Director, Dr. James Reilly, will be in Reston, Va./Washington, D.C.

The week of May 20, Reclamation Commissioner Brenda Burman will be in San Diego, CA Monday, May 21 through Wednesday, May 23 to participate in meetings related to drought contingency planning for the Colorado River. Upon her return to Washington, D.C. on May 24, she will attend various meetings, including meeting with Congressman Valadao.

Immediate Announcements and Actions (within the next 14 days)

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

[NEW] In mid-May, Optomen Productions will film a one-hour special at Lake Berryessa, California, for Mysteries at the Museum, a Travel Channel show. The company coordinated with the area office and obtained a film permit. The small film crew will film the special on the Zodiac Killer (a serial killer) and the theories behind the murders with an expert. (5/14/2018)

Reclamation has completed work to address comments on the Central North Dakota Environmental Assessment (EA). Reclamation released the draft EA for a second public comment period on April 17. The comment period was originally scheduled to close May 2, but by request from the State of Missouri it was extended to May 17. (3/26/2018)

[UPDATE] Between May 20 and June 1, Reclamation is planning to announce the two projects selected to receive funding for drought contingency planning. Drought contingency planning funding is available for applicants interested in developing a new drought plan or updating an existing drought plan. The Assistant Secretary of Water and Science is reviewing the selected projects. (4/9/2018)

[UPDATE] Between May 20 and June 1, Reclamation is planning to announce the selected ideas submitted under the data app prize competition. Reclamation, in collaboration with the U.S. Geological Survey, is seeking the development of an application framework to support electronic data collection and capture across a diverse range of data collection situations using mobile devices. (3/26/2018)

[UPDATE] Between May 20 and June 1, Reclamation is planning to announce the selected ideas submitted under the Long-Term Corrosion Protection of Existing Hydraulic Steel Structures prize competition. This prize competition sought ideas for long-term corrosion protection for large, hydraulic steel structures beyond the protection provided by available coatings and cathodic protection. (3/25/2018)

[UPDATE] Between May 20 and June 1, Reclamation is planning to publish the remaining completed Rural Water Supply Program Appraisal Reports. Timing is based on when the notice is published in the Federal Register. A news release will be issued in conjunction with the notice. (1/9/2018)

[UPDATE] Between May 20 and June 1, Reclamation will publish the Title XVI and WIIN funding opportunity announcement. Updated criteria for this funding opportunity were previously published for public comment on March 12. Title XVI provides financial assistance to local water agencies for the planning, design, and construction of water reclamation and reuse projects. (4/9/2018)

[UPDATE] Between May 21 and June 1, Reclamation will release the selected projects under the Drought Resiliency Project funding opportunity announcement. Through drought resiliency projects Reclamation will provide funding for projects that will help communities prepare for and respond to drought. (4/9/2018)

[UPDATE] Between May 21 and June 1, Reclamation will release the selected entities to receive funding under the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program. The funding was announced in a funding opportunity announcement this past fall. It provides funding to develop a watershed management group, fund an existing watershed group, complete watershed restoration planning activities, and design watershed management projects. (4/9/2018)

On May 21 through May 24, Reclamation's Lower Colorado Region will host a bi-annual Power Operations and Maintenance Workshop with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Tennessee Valley Authority. Discussion topics will include technical subjects related to hydro powerplant and pumping facilities operations, maintenance, and engineering activities; best practices; and lessons learned. The event will be held at Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas, Nevada. No press is expected. (3/12/2018)

[UPDATE] On May 21, Reclamation's Western Colorado Area Office will release a final Finding of No Significant Impact and Environmental Assessment about a contract to use Grand Valley Project facilities, located in Grand Junction, Colo., for conveyance of non-project water. The contract will allow the facilities to carry an additional 5,000 acre-feet of water a year for 5 years when it is determined that there is excess capacity in the project facilities. The project facilities will deliver the water to the head of the 15-Mile Reach for the benefit of the endangered fish. A press release will be sent to local media. (5/07/2018)

[NEW] On May 21, Reclamation's Western Colorado Area Office will release a final Finding of No Significant Impact and Environmental Assessment for revocation of withdrawal of lands for the Whitewater Unit located near Grand Junction, Colo. The project was never authorized and the lands are not needed for Reclamation purposes. Revoking the withdrawn land would allow for the potential restoration of these lands to the operation of the public land laws in accordance with applicable laws and regulations pursuant to the Bureau of Land Management's management decisions. (5/14/2018)

[NEW] Between May 21-25, Reclamation's Provo Area Office will issue a press release announcing plans for expanding operational capacity at Fontenelle Reservoir with the State of Wyoming. This expansion would increase flexibility in operating the dam and reservoir, which would in turn bolster the region's drought resilience. Additional reservoir capacity could also make possible the creation of a new water supply, which could be available for contracting and sale under certain conditions. On April 30, Reclamation concluded that it would consider funding the project under the Colorado River Storage Project Basin Fund Memorandum of Agreement, and invited Wyoming to submit a funding request. This federal funding can only be used to improve existing water projects, not to create new sources of water for contracting, and so if the project moves forward, it will only do so as a drought preparedness/operational flexibility project. Meantime, Wyoming is also seeking Congressional authority, amending the plan for Fontenelle Reservoir, to allow contracting for the use of the additional water supply that would come about from this work. Two bills which would authorize this plan, S. 199 (Barrasso) and HR 648 (Cheney), have been introduced by members of the Delegation and are pending in Congress. (05/14/2018)

On May 22, the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group (AMWG) will host a webinar/conference call. A *Federal Register* notice was published on May 3. Topics of discussion will include updates on current basin hydrology, the Adaptive Management Program budget and workplan for fiscal year 2019, possible experiments at Glen Canyon Dam this water year, the status of AMWG membership appointments, and other administrative items as needed. The webinar is open to media and the public. (3/26/2018)

On May 22, Reclamation will conduct a briefing via WebEx, with the Idaho congressional delegation on Idaho water projects, operations and issues. (4/23/2018)

On May 23, members of the Lower Clearwater Exchange Project will be leading a tour of the Lewiston Orchards Water Exchange Project (Lewiston, Idaho) for Trout Unlimited and the Resources Legacy Fund with support from the Nez Perce Tribe, Reclamation and the Lewiston

Orchards Irrigation District. Invitations have been extended to representatives from the offices of Sen. Risch, Sen. Crapo, and Rep. Labrador. The water exchange and title transfer are intended to benefit Snake River steelhead, protect natural and cultural resources important to the Nez Perce Tribe, and provide a reliable water supply for the Lewiston Orchard Irrigation District patrons. (4/02/2018)

[NEW] On May 23, Reclamation will host a Sacramento River brainstorming workshop in Sacramento, California, to enable Reclamation and the Department of Water Resources to find ways to satisfy their contractual obligations to the fullest extent possible, while avoiding jeopardy for listed species on the Sacramento River in a manner that is consistent with law. The goal is to develop a shared understanding of significant issues and generate ideas around solutions. This is to inform the Reinitiation of Consultation on the Coordinated Long-term Operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project. No media is expected. (5/14/2018)

[NEW] On May 23, the Great Plains Regional Office will be taping a local news outlet, KTVQ, for a panel discussion on Bighorn Lake and River. Both sides will be represented and the Area Manager, Steve Davies, will represent Reclamation on the issues surrounding Bighorn. The taping is scheduled for May 23rd and will broadcast Sunday May 27th.

[NEW] On or about May 24, Reclamation will issue a news release to announce the final environmental documents for the City of Sanger's (California) Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system upgrade project. (5/14/2018)

[NEW] On May 24, Reclamation's Upper Colorado Region's staff will host its first science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) event with participating agencies Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service at Flaming Gorge Dam in Dutch John, Utah. The primary goal is to recruit and mentor youth and encourage them to pursue the education and natural resources career paths. Seventh and eighth grade students from Manila High School will participate. No press. (5/14/2018)

[NEW] On May 30, co-leads U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Reclamation, and Bonneville Power Administration will host a Tribal and public update on developing the Columbia River System Operations Draft Environmental Impact Statement via webinar to share the progress in developing the range of alternatives and the next steps to analyze alternatives for environmental impacts. The Tribal webinar will be from 9:30-11:30 PST and the public webinar will be from 3-4:30 p.m. PST. (5/14/2018)

U.S. Geological Survey

[UPDATE] In May, the USGS will release a Scientific Investigation Report co-authored with the Bureau of Reclamation that compares and contrasts the two agencies' water-use information programs in the Colorado River Basin. The report also describes the legal drivers for each program, clarifies confusing terminology, compares the methods used, and contrasts the information reported by each agency. This detailed comparison shows how the different missions, programmatic drivers, and user communities of USGS and Reclamation lead to

different approaches to water-use data collection, analysis, and reporting. Despite the differences, the program comparison presented in this report identifies opportunities for closer coordination and sharing of information between the two bureaus, as well as program components where inter-bureau collaboration can improve water-use estimate methodologies. This report is a companion report that contains water-use estimates for 11 categories of use in drainage basins (HUC-8) within the Colorado River Basin (CRB). These reports will be released at the same time. (3/6/2018)

On May 20, the USGS will announce a new Scientific Investigation Report that provides inundation maps and flood details following Hurricane Harvey for areas of eastern and coastal Texas. Hurricane Harvey was the most significant rainfall event in US history, according to an upcoming USGS report. High water mark data, along with flood flow information from USGS streamgages, were used to create 19 inundation maps documenting the areal extent and depth of the flooding. In the immediate aftermath of Harvey, the USGS and FEMA initiated a cooperative study to evaluate the magnitude of flooding, determine the probability of occurrence and map the extent of the flood in Texas. USGS field crews collected 2,123 high-water marks in across southeast Texas. A news release is planned for Texas and the report will be posted online in the USGS Publications Warehouse. (4/26/2018)

On May 21, the USGS will be publishing a required Congressional report that summarizes USGS progress towards a national assessment of water availability and use. This National Water Census report, authorized by the SECURE Water Act (P.L. 111-11, Section 9508 (d)) (42 USC 10368), is the second in a series of reports to Congress that explains how the Water Census has progressed towards goals from 2013 to 2017. This is a congressionally mandated report that describes critical work the USGS has completed to understand, assess, and deliver information about water availability, as well as the collaboration and coordination with other agencies and organizations that are essential to the success of the National Water Census. (4/30/2018)

On May 21 the USGS and FWS will participate in an Asian Carp Congressional Briefing in Washington DC hosted by the Northeast Midwest Institute coinciding with the release of the 2018 Asian Carp Action Plan. The briefing will be led by the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee and focus on actions being taken in 2018 to prevent the introduction and establishment of Asian carp in the Great Lakes. The USGS will highlight the use of underwater sound for deterring Asian carp, grass carp monitoring and risk assessment, research on mass removal of Asian carp, providing Asian carp life history data to inform population modeling and tools for decision makers, and provide an update on control tools currently being developed or field tested. Other agencies presenting include the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The Asian Carp Action Plan is funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and agency appropriations. (5/8/2018)

[**NEW**] On May 20-25, USGS scientists will present at The Fire Continuum Conference: Preparing for the Future of Wildland Fire, in Missoula, Montana. Research presented will include 1) the impacts of climate, fire, and land management treatments on ecosystem resilience, 2) population response of the rare tectate cypress following a wildfire in southern California, 3)

unique interactions between climate and different ecosystems, and 4) the influence of drought and competition on tree mortality post-wildfire. (05/16/18)

[**NEW**] On May 22-25, USGS scientists will present research focusing on the rediscovery of the primitive horseshoe shrimp at the Ninth International Crustacean Congress in Washington, D.C. The horseshoe shrimp was presumed extinct until 2017, when USGS researchers rediscovered it during field work in central San Francisco Bay. The researchers sampled the local environment to determine which habitats attracted horseshoe shrimp, and currently plan additional studies to understand the species' basic ecology. These findings can further resource managers' and other researchers' understanding of tidal wetland communities within San Francisco Bay. (05/16/18)

[**NEW**] USGS scientists will be presenting at the International Workshop on Wildlife Diseases and One Health on May 22-24th at the USGS Powell Center in Fort Collins, Colorado. The three-day workshop will consist of presentations and discussions focused on wildlife diseases and One Health and a field trip to the USFWS National Black Footed Ferret Conservation Center. USGS will present information on highly pathogenic influenza A virus, diseases at the human, livestock and wildlife interface, and the amphibian disease *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* (Bsal). This workshop is the latest in a series of workshops that the USGS has held in collaboration with the Korea National Institute of Environmental Research under a Letter of Intent. This year presenters will represent the USGS, USDA, CDC, NPS, Korea National Park Research Institute, Korea CDC, Korea Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency, Korea National Institute of Environmental Research, Korea National Institute of Ecology, Japan National Institute for Environmental Studies, and the Chinese Academy of Sciences. (05/16/18)

[**NEW**] On May 23, USGS Landscape Science & Fish/Wildlife Program Coordinator, Melanie Steinkamp, will participate on a federal Puget Sound Estuary Restoration Panel as part of Puget Sound Day on the Hill events. Other agency representatives from NOAA, EPA and USACE will also participate on the panel. USGS will highlight current science activities focused in the Puget Sound region. The panel will be held in the Capitol Visitor Center at 11:00 a.m. (5/16/2018)

[**NEW**] On May 24, USGS will highlight results from airborne seismic studies that were conducted last August in Oklahoma with the Oklahoma Geological Survey. Oklahoma has been the site of thousands of earthquakes associated with wastewater injection activity but few earthquake sequences occur on mapped faults. This makes seismic hazard difficult to estimate. Using new airborne magnetic data to image rocks miles beneath the surface where the earthquakes are occurring, revealed numerous possible faults, in the form of magnetic lineaments, which had not previously been mapped. A number of lineaments are aligned with earthquake sequences, suggesting that they represent ancient faults that have been reactivated in the induced seismicity setting. A significant number of other lineaments aren't associated with seismicity, but are oriented favorably for rupture. The new data imply significant differences in fault structures between the older, deeper basement rocks and overlying, shallower and younger sedimentary rocks on which previous fault maps were mostly based. The findings will be published in *Geophysical Research Letters*. (5/10/2018)

[**NEW**] On May 24, the USGS will announce the recently published USGS Circular entitled "Integrating adaptive management and ecosystem services concepts to improve natural resource

management: Challenges and opportunities” was published online at the USGS Publications Warehouse. Prepared in cooperation with Resources for the Future, this report examines the integration of adaptive management and ecosystem services from both a conceptual and case-study perspective. A news release is planned. (5/11/2018)

15-60 Day Look-Ahead

[*NEW*] ASWS Travel: AS/WS Tim Petty is likely to travel to the Columbia River Basin during the week of June 25-29, to participate in Columbia River Treaty discussions and potential site visits.

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

In early June, The Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado Region, Yuma Area Office (YAO) intends to issue a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) to request proposals to fund projects for activities in support of its Endangered Species and Environmental Restoration programs in Federal FY 2018 (October 1, 2017, through September 30, 2018). The YAO periodically makes funding available for conducting activities for Threatened and Endangered species and their habitats under Section 7(a)1 of the Endangered Species Act under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Program (FWCAP). Reclamation has made \$110,000.00 of funding available for award for this FWCAP Financial Assistance FOA. Any awards are subject to a determination by Reclamation that FY 2018 appropriations are available and that awards can be made consistent with all program requirements. Reclamation will limit total funding to generally not more than \$50,000 in Federal funding to each applicant. Any awards are subject to a determination by Reclamation that Fiscal Year 2018 appropriations are available and that awards can be made consistent with all program requirements. Eligible applicants are state and local governments, non-profit organizations and institutions, public and private institutions and organizations, federally recognized Indian Tribal Governments, individuals, small businesses, for-profit organizations, and Native American organizations. (4/9/2018)

[*UPDATE*] In June 2018, Reclamation is proposing to publish a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an environmental impact statement on the New Mexico Unit Project. The proposed project is part of the Central Arizona Project, authorized by the Colorado River Basin Project Act of 1968, Pub. L. 90-537, 43 U.S.C. Ch. 32, as amended by the Arizona Water Settlements Act (AWSA, Pub. L. 108-451). Pursuant to the AWSA, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to contract with water users in New Mexico for water from the Gila River, its tributaries and underground water sources. Use of Gila River water under the AWSA is conditioned on satisfying various laws and agreements related to the use and exchange of Gila River water in New Mexico and Arizona. The NM Unit will divert Gila River water in New Mexico for this purpose. The AWSA provided funding to construct the NM Unit or, to develop other alternatives in southwestern New Mexico to meet demand. Reclamation and the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission are joint lead agencies for complying with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other related environmental regulations regarding the proposed Project. Issuance of the NOI will initiate the formal public scoping process associated with NEPA compliance. The process for publishing the Federal Register Notice of Intent will follow the

NEPA Document Clearance Process outlined in the Deputy Secretary's April 27, 2018, memorandum. (3/27/2018)

[UPDATE] In June 2018, Reclamation is proposing to publish a notice in the *Federal Register* (FR), to be signed by the Secretary of the Interior. The FR notice requests public comments on the Department's proposed decision to re-allocate Central Arizona Project non-Indian agricultural (CAP NIA) priority water consistent with a recommendation made to the Secretary by the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) in January 2014. This process is in accordance with Section 104 of the 2004 Arizona Water Settlements Act (Public Law 108-451), which directed the Secretary to allocate to the ADWR up to 96,295 acre-feet of CAP NIA priority water; this water is to be held by ADWR under contract in trust for further allocation, until a reallocation recommendation is submitted by ADWR to the Secretary. In 2012, ADWR began the reallocation recommendation process, and on January 16, 2014, ADWR submitted its recommendation to the Secretary. As explained in the proposed FR notice, the Secretary proposes to make 46,629 acre-feet of the NIA Priority CAP water available under long-term contracts in the amounts and to the municipal and industrial entities identified in ADWR's recommendation. Reallocation of CAP NIA priority water would address the imbalance of water supply and demand in central Arizona by providing renewable water supplies to those entities with a projected demand/supply imbalance based on ADWR's evaluation criteria. (4/23/2018)

In June, Reclamation is proposing to publish a notice in the Federal Register to begin charging fees at Lake Berryessa in Napa County, California. The fees will be used to upgrade facilities and pay for costs associated with recreation. Reclamation will ensure visitors are aware of the proposed plan by holding public scoping meetings, issuing press releases, posting it on the Lake Berryessa website at www.usbr.gov/mp/ccao/berryessa/index.html, and posting announcements at day-use areas. During public scoping meetings and the public comment period, Reclamation will seek input from the public regarding the possible use of funds collected. Public scoping meetings and public outreach will ensure the public is aware of all proposed fees and passes available to them. (2/26/2018)

In late June, Reclamation, Klamath Irrigation District, R&G Excavating, Klamath County, and the Klamath Basin irrigation community (Oregon) will hold an event to celebrate the completion of the new C Siphon which will convey irrigation water across the Lost River slough and Wildcat Canyon. The event will celebrate the success of the two-year construction project and a decades-long effort from procuring funding to construction. Media interest is expected. (4/23/2018)

On or about June 15, Reclamation's Western Colorado Area Office plans to publish a Notice in the *Federal Register* entitled: Notice of Intent to Accept Proposals, Select Lessee, and Contract for Hydroelectric Power Development at Silver Jack Dam, Bostwick Park Project, Colorado. This Notice will present background information, proposal content guidelines, and information concerning selection of a non-Federal entity to develop hydroelectric power at Silver Jack Dam, and power purchasing and/or marketing considerations. Silver Jack Dam is a Federal Reclamation project located in Colorado. Reclamation is seeking proposals to lease the right to develop hydroelectric power at Silver Jack Dam outside of Montrose, Colorado, under a Lease of Power Privilege. The potential lessee must submit proposals on or before 5:00 p.m. on Friday,

October 19, 2018, consistent with the guidelines included in the *Federal Register Notice*. (5/7/0218)

[**NEW**] On July 17 Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District and Reclamation will hold an event to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Ruedi Reservoir. It will be preceded by a tour of the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project West Slope facilities on July 16.

U.S. Geological Survey

[**UPDATE**] On May 28, the USGS will announce a new paper that evaluates land and surface water changes in Alaska. USGS scientists and partners combined Landsat imagery and climate reanalysis data to characterize land and water surface changes and identify underlying drivers of change throughout Alaska from 1984 to 2015. They identify the percent of Alaska's lands that changed during the last three decades, the ecoregion most affected, and the agent most responsible for the change. The study discusses how increased air temperatures affect vegetation health and water availability. This research fills a critical gap in understanding historical and potential future trajectories of change not only in Alaska, but in other northern high latitude regions. The paper will be published in *Global Change Biology*. A USGS Top Story feature accompanied by social media is planned (4/20/2018)

[**NEW**] On May 29, the USGS will announce a new paper that finds some wetlands along the urbanized U.S. Gulf Coast may not have room to migrate inland as seas rise. In this first estuary-level assessment of potential wetland migration throughout the northern Gulf region, USGS researchers used elevation and NOAA tide data, NOAA watershed boundaries, the USFWS' National Wetland Inventory, and the USGS's National Land Cover Database, and applied three levels of sea level rise projections (0.5, 1 and 1.5 meters by 2100) to determine which estuaries have the most land available for wetland migration, and which ones have the most low-lying urban areas that could lead to coastal squeeze. The study allows land managers and planners to quickly identify which estuaries have a high potential for landward migration or coastal squeeze. That information can help them set priorities and coordinate estuary-level planning to aid wetlands' adaptation to sea-level rise. The paper will be published in the *Journal of Applied Ecology* and a national news release is planned. (5/29/2018)

[**NEW**] On May 30-31, the National Climate Adaptation Science Center (CASC), Southeast CASC, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Caribbean Climate Hub, are convening a workshop in San Juan, Puerto Rico on drought in the U.S. Caribbean. The workshop will bring together regional experts in natural resources, agriculture, and water supply management to explore the state of the science on drought impacts in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, as well as future drought risk and drought monitoring and information needs in the region. Partners include the USDA Caribbean Climate Hub and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Attendees will include CASC staff, managers from other federal agencies (USFWS, USDA, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), from Puerto Rico (Department of Natural & Environmental Resources, and Department of Agriculture), and from U.S. Virgin Islands (Department of Agriculture), as well as scientists from the University of Puerto Rico, University of the Virgin Islands, and the National Drought Mitigation Center. (5/14/2018)

In mid-May, the USGS will highlight research on fish passage to assist migratory fish transit past man-made barriers and reach upstream spawning grounds. USGS fish passage research provides critical information needed for specialists to design and build effective fish passages that enable key species to get past dams, navigate waterways and complete migration cycles. These specially designed structures enable fish to bypass blocked waterways, giving migratory fish access to key spawning areas, nurseries and other crucial habitats. A USGS Feature Story is planned. (4/26/2018)

In May, the USGS will highlight a new USGS Circular entitled “A snapshot of women of the U.S. Geological Survey in STEM and related careers.” Women’s participation rate in the sciences is still lower than men’s and relatively few women reach top scientific leadership roles. The USGS needs specialists from a growing variety of science and related fields to remain a science leader. Given that girls and women are underrepresented, it is logical to look to them to fulfill society’s growing need and demand for science. With the online release of this circular, USGS will embark on a long-term campaign to encourage and inspire students, particularly girls and young women from middle school through early career, to consider Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) careers, and to reach experienced female professionals for science and leadership positions in USGS. This will include an internal USGS and DOI communications component to honor, inspire, and celebrate women within the USGS. The circular will be posted online in the USGS Publications Warehouse. Printed copies will be available in June. A social media campaign is planned. (4/26/2018)

[**UPDATE**] On May 31, the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee will hold a field hearing to review the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program. USGS has been invited to testify at the hearing, which is scheduled to take place at the Huntington Beach Council Chambers (California). Steve McCabe, NEHRP director at NIST, and possibly California Emergency Management and UC Irvine are also scheduled to testify. Anticipated Members include Reps. Rorhabacher (chairing) Steve Knight, and Mark Takano. (4/26/2018)

In May, USGS will highlight research that examined differential changes in the onset of spring across U.S. National Wildlife Refuges and North American migratory bird flyways. The study used indices of spring onset, the First Leaf Index and the First Bloom Index, as proxies of habitat change for the period 1901 to 2012 at three spatial scales: the U.S. National Wildlife Refuge System; the four major bird migratory flyways in North America; and the seasonal ranges (i.e., breeding and non-breeding grounds) of two migratory bird species, Bluewinged Warbler and Whooping Crane. The results provide insight into how differential shifts in the phenology of disparate but linked habitats could inform local- to landscape-scale management strategies for the conservation of migratory bird populations. A Top Story is being planned. (4/17/2018)

[**NEW**] In late May or early June, the Water Resources Mission Area will release a new report and data release that contains water-use estimates for 11 categories of use in drainage basins (HUC-8) within the Colorado River Basin (CRB). This report is a companion report to *Comparison of USGS and Bureau of Reclamation Water-Use Reporting in the Colorado River Basin*. These reports will be released at the same time. Three key takeaways from the report: 1) Total water use, excluding interbasin transfers of water out of the CRB, averaged about 17 million acre-feet from 1985 to 2010, peaking in 2000 at 17.76 million acre-feet, and was at the

lowest level of 16.43 million acre-feet in 1990. 2) Irrigation of crops was the predominant offstream use of water, averaging 85 percent of total use over the 25-year timespan; much more surface water was used than groundwater. 3) Population in the CRB increased from about 4.6 million people to over 9.4 million people between 1985 and 2010, and most of the people were in the lower CRB. By far, most of the public-supply withdrawals occurred in the lower CRB, and surface-water was the predominant source of water. (5/10/2018)

On June 1, the House Natural Resources Committee is planning to hold a field hearing in Grand Junction, Colorado at Colorado Mesa University (2:00 p.m.). This hearing will focus on opportunities to export natural gas from the Piceance Basin and the Jordan Cove LNG Terminal project. The hearing will also discuss oil shale opportunities in the U.S. and the need for further research on unconventional resources. USGS Energy Resources Program Coordinator Walter Guidroz will testify on recoverable resources in the Piceance Basin in Western Colorado, with other witnesses likely from the Western Slope Oil and Gas Association, the Colorado School of Mines, and the National Oil Shale Association. Anticipated Members in attendance will include Chairman Bishop, Rep. Tipton (who will chair the hearing) and Rep. Lamborn. (5/3/2018)

The week of June 4, USGS will participate in the Association of American State Geologists' annual meeting in Rehoboth, Del., including a breakout session with an emphasis on critical minerals. ASWS Tim Petty is also scheduled to participate at the meeting. (5/8/2018)

[**UPDATE**] On June 15, the USGS will announce a new report that evaluates the condition of resources in Olympic National Park. The 400-page Natural Resource Condition Assessment, or NRCA, addresses the current status and trends of 12 resources that Olympic National Park managers identified as species or communities of concern. The report was produced in cooperation with the National Park Service and a local news release is planned. (4/17/2018)

[**UPDATE**] In June, the USGS will release a new Circular entitled “Estimated Use of Water in the United States in 2015.” This report documents the national compilation of water use data issued by the USGS once every 5 years for the entire U.S. The report will present state-level water use data for the year 2015 and discuss long-term trends in water use. An accompanying data release of county-level data will be made available concurrently with the Circular. Also, a data visualization for the Circular and county-level data is being created. All three products will be released concurrently, and a news release is planned. (3/14/2018)

In June, the USGS will be highlighting remote sensing efforts underway. The first part will focus on a new research effort to survey water resources in the Mississippi Alluvial Plain from the air. Beginning in late February, the USGS began the first in a series of flights in Greenwood, Mississippi, to acquire large-scale airborne geophysical data in support of the Mississippi Alluvial Plain (MAP) Regional Water Availability Study, part of a groundwater availability study in the region. The USGS is working in partnership with multiple state agencies. The second is a UAS project in Colorado where the USGS will be testing a variety of noncontact sensors mounted on small, unmanned aircraft systems (sUAS) to measure river metrics including velocity, top width, area, and discharge and compare these data to ground-based conventional streamgaging methods. A top story is being planned. (4/17/2018)

[**NEW**] In June, the USGS will announce a forthcoming energy resource assessment of the Eagle Ford Shale in Texas. The Eagle Ford Shale extends from the Mexico-U.S. border in southern Texas north through San Antonio towards Waco. The Eagle Ford has been an active oil and gas producing region for the past decade. USGS previously assessed the Eagle Ford in 2011. Using a geology-based assessment methodology, the USGS will assess estimates of undiscovered, technically recoverable resources of oil and natural gas. A news release is planned. (5/15/2018)

[**NEW**] In early June, USGS and NOAA will release the 2018 forecast for the hypoxic zone in the Gulf of Mexico. The hypoxic zone is an area of low to no oxygen that can kill fish and other marine life. The Gulf's hypoxic (low oxygen) and anoxic (oxygen-free) zones are caused by excess nutrient pollution, primarily from human activities such as agriculture and wastewater. The excess nutrients stimulate an overgrowth of algae, which then sinks and decomposes in the water. The resulting low oxygen levels are insufficient to support most marine life and habitats in near-bottom waters, threatening the Gulf's fisheries. A news release is planned. (5/14/2018)

[**NEW**] In June and over the summer, the USGS will be releasing several publications and data products enhancing understanding of "Groundwater Availability of the Williston Basin, United States and Canada". A multi-year regional assessment of groundwater availability in the Williston Basin was started in 2011 under the USGS's Water Availability and Use Science Program, as part of its ongoing regional assessments of groundwater availability of the principal aquifers of the Nation. The goals of this national assessment are to document effects of human activities on water levels and groundwater storage, to explore effects of climate variability on the regional water budget, and to provide consistent and integrated information that is useful to those who use and manage the groundwater resource. The first product will be a *SIR Construction and Calibration of a Groundwater-Flow Model to Assess Groundwater Availability in the Uppermost Principal Aquifer Systems of the Williston Basin, United States and Canada*. In the next several months, the USGS will also release the following: 1) Professional Paper *Groundwater Availability of the Williston Basin, United States and Canada*; 2) Fact Sheet *Williston Basin Groundwater Availability, United States and Canada*; and 3) Data release *Water Use for Hydraulic Fracturing Treatments in and near the Williston Basin, United States, 2000-2015*. (5/10/2018)

[**NEW**] In June, the USGS will announce an upcoming article that finds the elevation at which clouds begin to form is the dominant factor in the extinction risk for the federally endangered Shenandoah salamander. The cloud base height is a function of temperature and relative humidity. Regional forecasts suggest increased warming in these high-elevation habitats, so increases in cloud base heights are expected to continue into the future. This could increase the extinction risk for the Shenandoah salamander. The paper will be published in *Ecology and Evolution* and a local news release is planned. (5/14/2018)

[**NEW**] In June or July USGS scientists will coordinate with the Los Angeles Zoo and others to release captive-bred, endangered mountain yellow-legged frogs in southern California. This species faces multiple threats, including habitat loss, drought, and chytrid fungus. The Los Angeles Zoo and the city of Los Angeles are both planning press surrounding the frogs' release (including a potential press release, and possible attendance by the mayor of Los Angeles). The *Los Angeles Times* is planning to publish an article about the collaborative project. (05/16/18)

Awareness

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

[NEW] Reclamation Great Plains Region continues to support the Department of Justice in settlement talks with Manitoba regarding the Northwest Area Water Supply. On May 7, 2018, the United States Court of Appeals issued an order extending the 90-day stay in this case by another 30 days. This allows continued progress in the settlement discussions. Briefs in this case are now scheduled to begin in June and conclude in September 2018. (5/15/2018)

[NEW] On May 7, Reclamation's Great Plains Regional Office received a request for a temporary water service contract with an applicant from Montana who wishes to grow industrial hemp under the exemption provided by Section 7606 of the 2014 Farm Bill Act (Pub. L. 113-79, Title VII, § 7606, 7 U.S.C. 5940 – signed in 2014.) This grower previously requested, and was not provided, a water service contract in 2017. Reclamation and the Solicitor's Office are evaluating the request, and will work to provide an answer prior to the grower's requested June 1, 2018 deadline. (5/14/2018)

Following coordination with his counterpart Assistant Secretaries, AS/WS Tim Petty provided a Decision Memorandum for the Secretary's consideration setting forth the Department's position on the priority of the key drivers for the upcoming Columbia River Treaty negotiations. The Department will actively participate in Columbia River Treaty negotiations/activities through the engagement of Assistant Secretary Petty, and staffed by Reclamation, with the treaty's two technical entities, Bonneville Power Administration and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Department supports the two key drivers being flood control and hydropower generation. (4/2/2018)

The April 2018 24-Month Study establishes that Lake Powell operations will shift to "balancing releases" for the remainder of water year 2018. Under balancing, the contents of Lake Powell and Lake Mead will be balanced by the end of the water year, but not more than 9.0 million acre-feet and not less than 8.23 maf shall be released from Lake Powell. Based on the most probable inflow forecast, this April 24-Month Study projects a balancing release of 9.0 maf in water year 2018; the actual release in water year 2018, however, will depend on hydrology in the remainder of water year and will range from 8.23 to 9.0 maf. The projected release from Lake Powell in water year 2018 will be updated each month throughout the remainder of the water year. Based on the current inflow forecast and projected releases, the April 24-Month Study projects Lake Powell elevation will end water year 2018 near 3,598 feet, with approximately 11.6 maf in storage (48 percent of capacity). Currently, Lake Powell is 53 percent full, with a live storage content of 12.8 maf. (4/16/2018)

In conjunction with the Administration's legislation transmitted to Congress to facilitate the transfer of title of Bureau of Reclamation's projects and facilities to non-Federal entities, the Department and Reclamation are working with the Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) on development of a categorical exclusion (CE) under the National Environmental Policy Act for select types of title transfers. The CE would be established for those situations where the proposed transfer of title from Reclamation to a willing entity is non-controversial, non-

complicated and would not result in a change in the operations or management of the facilities. Establishment of a categorical exclusion could decrease the time required for Reclamation to complete title transfers. Pursuant to CEQ Regulations, Reclamation and CEQ are currently working together on a notice for the Federal Register proposing that a CE be established for this purpose. The expected target for publication of this notice in the Federal Register is mid-July. (3/20/2018)

U.S. Geological Survey

[**UPDATE**] USGS scientists at the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory continue to monitor the ongoing eruption at Kīlauea Volcano. Scientists are closely monitoring activity at two sites. Geologists are maintaining surveillance along the Lower East Rift Zone where fissures continue to appear in and around the Leilani Estates subdivision and in an area 2.0 -2.6 km northeast of the subdivision. Twenty fissures have opened so far, resulting in elevated volcanic gas emissions and small lava flows. The most vigorous fissure activity at the moment is from fissure 17 that opened approximately 2.6 km northeast of the Leilani subdivision. Fissure 17 has erupted lava spatter and spatter bombs hundreds of feet into the air and has generated a lava flow of 2.5 km in length moving to the southeast. The area has been evacuated and Hawaii County Civil Defense is keeping residents informed about closures, warnings, and safety messages. The second location is at the summit of Kīlauea (in the National Park) where there is strong possibility of explosions caused by the interaction of groundwater and hot rock and magma. On May 15, 2018, the USGS Hawaiian Volcano Observatory issued a Volcano Observatory Notice for Aviation (VONA) and increased the aviation threat level from Orange to Red because of increased and higher volcanic ash venting from the Overlook Crater at Kīlauea's summit. Ashfall and vog (volcanic air pollution) have been reported in Pahala, about 18 miles downwind. NWS radar pilot reports indicate the top of the ash cloud is as high as 10,000 to 12,000 feet above sea level, but this may vary depending on the vigor of activity and wind conditions. Ash emission from the summit's Overlook Crater will likely be variable with periods of increased and decreased intensity through the day. At any time, activity may become more explosive, increasing the intensity and height of ash emission and producing ballistic projectiles near the vent. The Hawaiian Volcano Observatory remains operational but approximately half of the staff have occupied an alternate work site located on the University of Hawaii at Hilo campus or are teleworking from their homes (5/16/18).

[**NEW**] With the snowpack in the Upper Columbia Basin in northeast Washington at 140 percent of normal and above normal snowpack throughout the rest of Washington State, flooding is expected this week on rivers on the east side of the Cascades due to snowmelt as temperatures begin to rise. The Kettle and Okanogan Rivers in north-central Washington near the Canadian border are forecasted to exceed Major Flood stage beginning on Thursday and peak this weekend as the temperature in Spokane is expected to reach 75 degrees. The Similkameen River, located in the same general area, is forecasted to exceed the Moderate Flood stage. Other rivers on the east side that are expected to exceed their flood stage this week include the Pend Oreille, Methow, Stehekin, and Naches Rivers. Two crews from our Upper Columbia Field Office in Spokane and one crew from our Mid Columbia Field Office in Kennewick will be out this week and this weekend to make discharge measurements and maintain the gaging stations. There have been no reports of any failing gages yet. (5/10/2018)

[**NEW**] Minor to major flooding is occurring in the Clark Fork River basin in western Montana. Melting of low- to mid-elevation mountain snowpack in combination with rainfall in some areas has resulted in streamflows exceeding National Weather Service minor to major flood stages at 7 USGS streamgages in the basin. The most significant flooding is occurring in and near Missoula, Montana. Streamflows are expected to peak later this week and into next week. Forecasted peaks could be the largest since 1953. Daily streamflow records at several USGS streamgages are longer than 80 years. Two teams of two hydrographers and one individual are deployed making discharge measurements in the Clark Fork River and Flathead River basins. A stage sensor was relocated at one streamgage to address data-quality concerns. (5/10/2018)

[**NEW**] During the week of May 21, DASWS Andrea Travnicek will staff Secretary Zinke at the Williston Basin Petroleum Conference being held in Bismarck, N.D. While in North Dakota, she will take time to visit USGS and Reclamation offices and sites in the area including the USGS North Dakota Water Science Center, the Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center and local research sites for pollinators and wetlands research. (5/14/2018)

[**UPDATE**] The National Imagery Summit has been rescheduled by the Imagery Committee of the Federal Geographic Data Committee to September 20-21, 2018. Meeting speakers and attendees were notified of this change, and provided a copy of the Summit's current agenda. Invitations are being extended to over three-hundred Government-only attendees, composed of White House, remote sensing policy, and civil agency leaders who oversee U.S. land imaging operations. The event, to be held at the USGS HQ in Reston, VA, will be webcast to US government GIS and land management scientists and practitioners across the United States. The purpose of the Summit is to address emerging challenges in today's dynamic imagery marketplace, with a focus on shortcomings and conflicts in U.S. policies related to overhead data collection, data management, and the variety of roles served by U.S. Federal and State agencies in meeting public needs for remotely sensed data and applications. Attendees will discuss current and future national land imaging needs, the status of current national capabilities, and national collection and data management strategies. (4/24/2018)

[**UPDATE**] On May 21-24 USGS scientists will present genetic and disease research on bighorn sheep in Dinosaur National Monument (WY), Yellowstone National Park (WY, MT, ID), Glacier National Park (MT and Canada), and desert bighorn sheep at the Northern Wild Sheep and Goat Council in Whitefish (MT). Bighorn sheep are an important species in our national parks and monuments, an important game species, and an important part of food webs. Research in Dinosaur National Monument is an assessment of habitat, movement, disease, and population structure that informs federal and state managers on the success of previous introductions and considerations for future monitoring and management. Research on Glacier National Park bighorns assessed effects of population size and habitat quality on social contacts and disease. Information on whether and how the bighorns in Glacier, Waterton Lakes National Park, and the Blackfeet Reservation are subdivided provides options for management in a disease event or to proactively reduce the likelihood of disease. Research on genomic data from Glacier, Yellowstone National Park and other Western state populations will provide guidelines to management for sample sizes needed to describe the genetic health of their populations.

Research on desert bighorn sheep examined the dynamic between environmental variation and disease which can inform management of desert bighorn sheep on Federal lands. (5/8/2018)

On June 2, the USGS Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center (NOROCK) in Bozeman, Mont. will host an Open House from 10am - 3pm. The local community is invited to to learn more about the exciting science NOROCK does on bears, elk, glaciers, avalanches, tree rings, bats, American pikas, native fish, invasive species, wildlife disease, sagebrush habitats, Montana's water resources, Yellowstone geology and much more, including cool technology to study wildlife such as radars and drones. This family-friendly event is free to the public and includes several engaging and interactive exhibits and demonstrations. (5/8/2018)

[**NEW**] During the week of June 4, USGS Regional Directors from the Pacific, Northwest and Southwest Regions will meet in Denver, Colo. with Senior Advisor to the Secretary of Interior, Alan Mikkelsen, to discuss current USGS science in the west. Topics will likely include natural hazards, water, ecosystems, and energy and minerals.

In a new study, researchers will map and model the distribution and habitat associations of lizard and snakes in sagebrush ecosystems. Little is known about how lizards and snakes may respond to changes in habitat from climate, invasive species, fire, roads, and natural resource management. In particular, there is a need to identify how greater sage-grouse habitat management, including alteration of sagebrush shrublands and pinyon-juniper woodlands, may influence these animals. In a new study, researchers will map and model the distribution and habitat associations of lizard and snakes in sagebrush ecosystems. They will examine their response to changes in habitat resulting from greater sage-grouse restoration, shifts in vegetation as a result of fire and invasive annual grasses, and regional changes in temperature and precipitation. Finally, researchers will map priority areas for conservation of lizards and snakes in sagebrush ecosystems, identifying relative importance of public and private lands. This work will provide baseline information about habitat needs and identify priority areas for conservation for lizards and snakes in sagebrush ecosystems. Partners include the U.S. Forest Service and the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. (5/8/2018)

In a new study, USGS will evaluate a novel biopesticide for controlling exotic annual grasses following rangeland wildfire. Scientists will test a novel weed-suppressive bacteria (WSB) combined with the herbicide imazapic on target weeds and non-target native plants on over 1000 acres in the Boise River Wildlife Management Area. Invasions by exotic annual grasses, most notably cheatgrass and medusahead, are unambiguous threats to rangelands in the western United States, diminishing livestock productivity and increasing wildfire activity. The objective is to determine if, when, and where spraying is effective for controlling exotic annual grasses. They will also model how landscape factors influence treatment effectiveness. This study is requested and funded by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture. (5/8/2018)

In late June, a delegation of 180 officials from Canada, Mexico and the U.S. are invited to meet at the University of Oklahoma, the South Central Climate Adaptation Science Center (CASC) host university, during the 2018 Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) Council Ministerial. The South Central CASC is planning to highlight their science work during the officials' visit and will be part of the University of Oklahoma's discussions for future plans to

collaborate with these officials and stakeholders. The CEC Council Chairmanship and Ministerial rotates between the US, Mexico, and Canada each year, and Administrator Scott Pruitt (current chair) selected Oklahoma City as the location for the 2018 meeting. The theme for this year's Council Ministerial is "Innovation and Partnerships for Green Growth". (4/24/2018)

The USGS, through the Department of the Interior's Technical Assistance Program and the State Department, has been invited to participate in a scoping assessment of Romanian oil and gas concessions, data management and environmental risk mitigation. The assessment, which will take place in June, will be led by State's Energy Resources Bureau and will include site visits to Bucharest and Constanta. This initial assessment might lead to further energy governance and capacity building in the region later this year. (5/2/2018)

The USGS continues progress toward implementing a Quality Management System (QMS) for the energy geochemistry laboratories. External audits are complete and USGS is preparing a formal report to the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) that certifies that a functional QMS is fully implemented. The target date to complete the package internally is May 18, after which results will be reviewed with USGS management and submitted to DOI for further review. Any changes will be reviewed again, with final submission to the OIG scheduled for late June. (5/2/2018)

This summer, a manuscript on a new USGS assessment of undiscovered conventional oil and gas resources in down-dip Paleogene formations of the U.S. Gulf Coast will be published in the Gulf Coast Association of Geologic Societies Bulletin. In 2007, based on only sparse data, the USGS estimated with large uncertainty over 50 trillion cubic feet of undiscovered gas. Recent discoveries offshore and data from wells onshore provided new evidence of a working petroleum system in these formations. Subsequently, eight assessment units (AUs) for conventional resources and three AUs for continuous (unconventional) resources were identified. (5/2/2018)

The National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine (NAS) has nearly completed a strategic review of the USGS Energy Resources Program. The study is to evaluate the long term strategic priorities of the program and suggest alternatives or changes for the program to consider. A committee was assembled by the NAS and has now met three times, twice with program participation and once in closed session. A rough draft of the report is due in early July, with a final report due by August. (5/2/2018)

[**NEW**] In June or July USGS scientists will coordinate with the Los Angeles Zoo and others to release captive-bred, endangered mountain yellow-legged frogs in southern California. This species faces multiple threats, including habitat loss, drought, and chytrid fungus. The Los Angeles Zoo and the city of Los Angeles are both planning press surrounding the frogs' release (including a potential press release, and possible attendance by the mayor of Los Angeles). The *Los Angeles Times* is planning to publish an article about the collaborative project. (05/16/18)

Beginning August 6, the USGS will conduct the Mid-Atlantic Resource Imaging Experiment (MATRIX) seismic project on Atlantic margin in partnership with BOEM and the U.S. Department of Energy. The goal of the project is to image distribution of gas hydrate and shallow gas on Atlantic margin between Hudson Canyon and Cape Hatteras across areas

considered highly prospective for gas hydrates. Seismic data will be collected over a period of 2.5 to 3 weeks. An Incidental Harassment Authorization Application was submitted to NMFS in March, and initial comments have been received. The Draft Environmental Assessment and request for Section 7 consultation under the Endangered Species Act was also submitted to NMFS in March. The draft EA is posted on the USGS Coastal/Marine Hazards & Resources Program's environmental compliance website and is open for public comment until April 19. (4/6/2018)

Secretarial Order 3352 milestones: The reprocessing of vintage 2-D seismic data acquired in the mid-1980s over the Section 1002 area of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) is progressing, with expected delivery in the summer of 2018. A resource assessment of the Section 1002 area will be deferred pending the acquisition of 3-D seismic data by industry. In the interim, the USGS will shift its efforts on resource assessments on Alaska's North Slope to accelerate the evaluation of the Central North Slope (CNS) lands situated between ANWR and the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A). The expected completion date of the CNS assessment is December 2019; an assessment covering NPR-A was released in December 2017. Field work to support the broader North Slope effort is scheduled for this summer, with logistical planning now underway. (5/2/2018)

Upcoming USGS Publications

[**NEW**] A new IUCN report is available online entitled "Polar bears: proceedings of the 18th working meeting of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), Species Survival Commission (SSC) Polar Bear Specialist Group, Anchorage, Alaska, 7-11 June 2016". This report provides an overview of research and conservation efforts on polar bears by each of the five nations whose jurisdictions include the range of polar bears (i.e., Range States: Canada, USA, Norway, Greenland, and the Russian Federation), and the status of the 19 polar bear subpopulations. (5/15/2018)

[**NEW**] On May 15 a new USGS paper entitled "Dissolved organic carbon and nitrogen release from boreal Holocene permafrost and seasonally frozen soils of Alaska" was accepted and published online in *Environmental Research Letters*. The paper describes a study of dissolved organic carbon (DOC) and total dissolved nitrogen (TDN) (mostly as dissolved organic nitrogen (DON)) release from deep active layer soils and shallow (<1m depth) permafrost soils upon thaw and leaching, and it includes a wide range of soils varying in carbon and nitrogen content and carbon-14 age. The study found that for a given soil carbon or nitrogen content, or radiocarbon age, permafrost soils yield significantly more DOC and TDN than overlying active layer soils. The work has important implications for predicting potential changes in availability of DOC and TDN upon shallow permafrost thaw that can be mineralized in soils or mobilized to surface waters. This is the first assessment of soil leachates from individual sites across a broad range of soils typically of boreal Alaska. (5/15/2018)

[**NEW**] In late May or early June a new USGS paper entitled "Meeting the Mineral Needs of the United States" will be published by the American Geophysical Union in *Eos*. The publication provides an overview of the current status of domestic mining and processing for the 50 mineral

commodities for which the United States was more than 50 percent net import reliant in 2017. (5/16/2018)

[*NEW*] In May/June a new USGS paper entitled “Quantifying relative importance: Computing standardized effects in models with binary outcomes” is anticipated to be published in the journal *Ecosphere*. The research described in the paper shows why binary response models cannot be interpreted in raw units, and why the need for standardized solutions persists. The research also shows why standardization can bias comparisons by an order-of- magnitude, and offers an alternative method of standardization that can remedy the problem. Partners in this research include Bigelow Marine Laboratory and the University of Massachusetts in Boston. (5/14/2018)

[*NEW*] In May or early June a new USGS paper will be published in the journal *Evolutionary Applications* that provides insight into the genetic diversity and population structure of the Federally threatened southern sea otter. Scientists analyzed 13 years of genetic and demographic data from more than 1,000 sea otters along the California coast. Sea otters’ genetic diversity was low and remained low over time. The scientists did not find evidence for distinct genetic units within the population, but did find some evidence that sea otters separated by distance would be genetically isolated. Additionally, estimates of sea otters’ effective population size — the threshold required for a population to remain viable over time — were much larger when based on demographic data, than when they were based on genetic data, across the sea otter’s population range. Taken together, these results can inform management and recovery of the southern sea otter and other wide-ranging species, and the development of genetic assessments for wildlife populations. Partners in the study include USFWS, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Monterey Bay Aquarium. (05/16/18).

[*NEW*] In June a new USGS paper entitled “Rapid Crop Cover Mapping for the Conterminous United States” will be published in the journal *Scientific Reports*. The study described in the paper explored the possibility of developing near real time crop cover maps for the conterminous United States in support of applications that require that timely estimates of crop types estimates, such as those associated with estimation of water demands and uses. The paper outlines an approach for production of crop cover maps for periods leading up to harvest. (5/14/2018)

[*NEW*] A new paper entitled “Genetic evidence supports sporadic and independent introductions of low pathogenic H5 avian influenza A viruses from wild birds to domestic poultry in North America” will be published in the *Journal of Virology* in the next few months. The paper describes how scientist used avian influenza A viruses (IAVs) isolated from domestic poultry in the US and Canada during 2001–2017 to quantify the number of virus introductions from wild birds. Results suggest that management strategies have been effective in minimizing the circulation of low pathogenic H5 subtype influenza A viruses introduced into domestic birds, particularly those raised in large commercial operations. (5/15/2018)

[*NEW*] In the next few months a new USGS paper will be published in *Monographs of the Western North American Naturalist* on the distribution and distribution patterns of the invasive Argentine ant within Channel Islands National Park, CA. The Argentine ant occupies the Santa Catalina, San Clemente, Santa Cruz, and San Nicolas Islands in geographically isolated infestations that range in size. These populations cover a variety of habitats, including large areas

entirely dominated by native plants. Multi-year surveys revealed that new ant colonies budded off existing ones, and that annual rates of spread on San Clemente Island resembled those on mainland California. Results suggest that the continued spread of the Argentine ant could have significant consequences for the local environment, and inform ongoing efforts to eradicate the species from the Park. Partners on the study include NPS, The Nature Conservancy, U.C. Riverside, San Diego State University, U.C. San Diego. (05/16/18)

[**NEW**] USGS has been invited by *Science Trends* to submit an article about a manuscript titled *Landscape-scale wildlife species richness metrics to inform wind and solar energy facility siting: An Arizona case study*, published online mid-February in *Energy Policy*. The *Science Trends* article is based off of the USGS *Energy Policy* manuscript and discusses potential conflicts that can arise between wildlife and renewable energy facilities. The article also describes a method that uses publicly available data to create a maps that provide a preliminary resource for energy developers, land managers, and regulatory agencies to identify areas that could contain wildlife concerns early on in the process of finding a renewable energy facility site. Arizona Game and Fish Department and Bureau of Land Management data were used in the *Energy Policy* manuscript. A briefing paper that included the original USGS *Energy Policy* manuscript and two other energy-related papers was drafted in early February. Publication date is unknown, but expected within the next 30 days. (05/16/18)

Conversation Contents

Testimony

Greg Sheehan <greg_j_sheehan@fws.gov>

From: Greg Sheehan <greg_j_sheehan@fws.gov>
Sent: Thu May 17 2018 16:47:43 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: (b) (6), todd_willens@ios.doi.gov, susan_combs@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Testimony

All,

There was a hearing in EPW on May 6, 2015, where David Bernhardt testified in the second panel. This is likely the hearing David was referring to as he was there in person. Here's the transcript and the attachment contains the full exchange between Sen. Inhofe and Dir. Ashe including discussion about ABB.

https://www.epw.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/4/f/4fad24e8-d710-4ca2-9d3e-c61f29369440/01AFD79733D77F24A71FEF9DAFCCB056.spw050615.pdf

Here is the excerpt to save you time from reading the entire report.

Mr. Ashe. Mr. Chairman, the increases in our budget are actually, we are directed to fulfilling our responsibilities, like five-year status review, which support the analysis of species that are already listed and will support our review to determine if they should be downlisted or delisted.

For instance, with the American burying beetle, we are initiating next month a range-wide comprehensive status review for the species. So we will engage the Service's experts, the States, other experts, and we will use that status review to determine whether delisting or downlisting of the American burying beetle –

Senator Inhofe. No, wait a minute. You are going to do this study to see how many should be delisted? Is this what we are looking at?

Mr. Ashe. We are going to do it to determine the status of the species, and then based on that, we could make a proposal to downlist –

Senator Inhofe. Well, no, we are talking about having listed, remember the 12 versus hundreds that I used in my opening statement? Why is it that we are spending all this time on listing and not delisting? We have talked about this for a long period of time. I can remember letters sent back, and have copies right here, back to 2011, addressing this, along with some sue and settle problems that we have. But it is the delisting. What is my answer to the people when I go back to western

Oklahoma and they say, how much longer is it going to be until we do something with this vast, this growing beetle or whatever you want to refer to it as?

Mr. Ashe. It will be this coming month, when we start the status review.

Senator Inhofe. How long do you think that review will take?

Mr. Ashe. I can't really give you that answer right now, Mr. Chairman.

Senator Inhofe. Can you tell me within six months how long it will take?

Mr. Ashe. I could tell you it would take 6 to 18 months, would be my guess, to do the status review.

Senator Inhofe. All right, 6 to 18 months, somebody write that down. We want to get some conclusion on this thing.

There is another place in their exchange where Chairman Inhofe brings up the beetle as an example of where new info indicates a more robust population and we're not able to delist quickly enough and so maybe a change in the law is needed. Dan Ashe responded that the process works and the solution is resources to do the work.

Greg Sheehan
Principal Deputy Director
US Fish and Wildlife Service
202-208-4545 office
202-676-7675 cell

David Bernhardt <(b) (6)>

From: David Bernhardt <(b) (6)>
Sent: Thu May 17 2018 17:27:23 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Greg Sheehan <greg_j_sheehan@fws.gov>
CC: todd_willens@ios.doi.gov, susan_combs@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: Testimony

Thanks. It appears my recollection was not perfect.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 17, 2018, at 6:47 PM, Greg Sheehan <greg_j_sheehan@fws.gov> wrote:

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Greg Sheehan
Principal Deputy Director
US Fish and Wildlife Service
202-208-4545 office
202-676-7675 cell

Conversation Contents

Fwd: ABB Statement

"Newell, Russell" <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Newell, Russell" <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu May 17 2018 06:18:24 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Todd Willens <todd_willens@ios.doi.gov>, "Magallanes, Downey" <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>, Susan Combs <susan_combs@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: ABB Statement

for your awareness. Any concerns? The Dep Sec called this one to attention at his A/S FWS/NPS meeting Tues.

Russell Newell
Deputy Director of Communications
U.S. Department of the Interior
(202) 208-6232
@Interior

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Shire, Gavin** <gavin_shire@fws.gov>
Date: Wed, May 16, 2018 at 4:06 PM
Subject: ABB Statement
To: Alex Hinson <alex_hinson@ios.doi.gov>, Eli Nachmany <eli_nachmany@ios.doi.gov>, Faith Vander Voort <faith_vandervoort@ios.doi.gov>, Heather Swift <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>, John Bockmier <john_bockmier@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>, Paul Ross <paul_ross@ios.doi.gov>, Rebecca Matulka <rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov>, Russell Newell <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Barbara Wainman <barbara_wainman@fws.gov>, Brian Hires <brian_hires@fws.gov>, Matthew Huggler <matthew_huggler@fws.gov>

Given [OMB's posting](#) of our intent to downlist the American burying beetle, we have drafted the following if-asked statement. Let me know if you have any concerns:

"The Fish and Wildlife Service will finalize a 12-month finding on whether or not the American burying beetle warrants delisting or reclassification under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The beetle is currently protected as endangered under the ESA, and occurs in Arkansas, Kansas, Massachusetts, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Dakota and Texas.

The finding is being conducted in response to a petition from American Stewards of Liberty, Independent Petroleum Association of America and Texas Public Policy Foundation to delist the species.

While providing details about our finding would be premature at this point, it will be based on the best available science. Should any proposal result from this finding, there will be a 60-day comment period, to allow sufficient time for public and stakeholder input."

G

Gavin Shire

Chief of Public Affairs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
MS: EA
[5275 Leesburg Pike](#)
[Falls Church, VA 22041](#)-3803
703-358-2649 (o)
703-346-9123 (c)
gavin_shire@fws.gov

Todd Willens <todd_willens@ios.doi.gov>

From: Todd Willens <todd_willens@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu May 17 2018 06:46:21 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Newell, Russell" <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>
"Magallanes, Downey"
CC: <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>, Susan Combs
<susan_combs@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: ABB Statement

I'm fine.

Todd Willens
Assistant Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW - MIB Room 6116
Washington, DC 20240

On May 17, 2018, at 8:18 AM, Newell, Russell <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

for your awareness. Any concerns? The Dep Sec called this one to attention at his A/S FWS/NPS meeting Tues.

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Deputy Director of Communications
U.S. Department of the Interior
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Date: Wed, May 16, 2018 at 4:06 PM
Subject: ABB Statement
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Given [OMB's posting](#) of our intent to downlist the American burying beetle, we have drafted the following if-asked statement. Let me know if you have any concerns:

“The Fish and Wildlife Service will finalize a 12-month finding on whether or not the American burying beetle warrants delisting or reclassification under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The beetle is currently protected as endangered under the ESA, and occurs in Arkansas, Kansas, Massachusetts, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Dakota and Texas.

The finding is being conducted in response to a petition from American Stewards of Liberty, Independent Petroleum Association of America and Texas Public Policy Foundation to delist the species.

While providing details about our finding would be premature at this point, it will be based on the best available science. Should any proposal result from this finding, there will be a 60-day comment period, to allow sufficient time for public and stakeholder input.”

G

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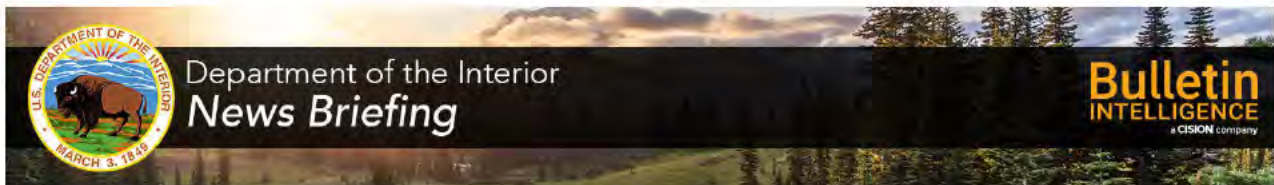
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[EXTERNAL] U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, May 15, 2018

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Tue May 15 2018 04:04:28 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, May 15, 2018

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DOI In The News

EPA Administrator, Interior Secretary Speak At American Boating Congress.

The [Boating Industry](#) (5/14) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt were "among the high profile speakers from Washington" at the 2018 American Boating Congress. Zinke "acknowledged reorganization of the U.S. Department of the Interior and how he is looking for ways to tackle the maintenance backlog and improve access for recreational boaters." Zinke also "discussed public-private partnerships and ways they can play a role in improving access." In closing, Zinke appointed Correct Craft President and CEO Bill Yeargin to the "Made in America" Outdoor Recreation Advisory Committee.

The [Boating Industry](#) (5/14) reports that Zinke said, "The committee's collective experience as entrepreneurs and business leaders provide unique insight that is often lost in the Federal government. As we rebuild our nation's infrastructure, we can continue the exponential growth of the American recreation sector, which supports millions of American jobs and bares a significant impact on our economy."

Zinke Confirmed As N.D. Petroleum Conference Speaker.

The [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (5/15) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is "confirmed to deliver the keynote address next week at the Williston Basin Petroleum Conference in Bismarck." Zinke "said in a statement he's looking forward to speaking about how the Trump Administration is working to 'unleash North Dakota's full energy potential.'" He said, "The Williston Basin is an important piece in achieving President Donald Trump's goal of American energy dominance."

Interior Department Faces Ethics Queries As Official Meets With Koch-linked Group.

[The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (5/14, Tobias) reports that "records reviewed by the Guardian and Pacific Standard show that a high-level interior official, Douglas Domenech, held meetings with a previous employer, the Koch-linked Texas Public Policy Foundation, while it was involved in legal action against the department." Under the ethics rules of the interior department, the article says, "employees are usually required to recuse themselves from working on specific matters that involve recent employers and that could create the appearance of a conflict of interest." Interior Department spokeswoman Heather Swift said the meetings were "primarily social in nature." Swift added that

Domenech had reported these meetings to "career ethics officials, and the department is addressing the matter internally".

Also reporting is the [Pacific Standard](#) (5/14, Tobias).

Arctic Oil 'Undrillable' Amid Global Warming: U.N.'s Ex-climate Chief.

[Reuters](#) (5/15, Doyle) reports that former United Nations climate chief Christina Figueres "said it made no economic sense to explore in the Arctic," citing economics of drilling and the threat to the ecologically fragile region. Figueres argued that it could take years to develop the funds needed to properly develop any finds in the region, and that type of investment would be better spent developing renewable energies.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Tribes Decry President Trump's Proposed Budget Cut To Bureau Of Indian Affairs.

The [Public Radio Tulsa \(OK\)](#) (5/14, Trotter) reports that tribes are upset with President Trump's proposed 2019 budget for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. National Congress of American Indians President Jefferson Keel said, "The 2019 president's budget for Indian Affairs would be a 15.6 percent decrease from the FY2018 CR level. Nearly every line item in the BIA budget would see reductions." According to Keel, "that means nearly every spending area will be cut, and some tribal priorities could be completely done away with."

Osage Nation Asks For More Federal Spending On Abandoned Wells.

The [Public Radio Tulsa \(OK\)](#) (5/14, Trotter) reports that "the Osage Nation hopes the final Bureau of Indian Affairs budget will help continue work to plug abandoned oil and gas wells on its land." Osage Minerals Councilwoman Cynthia Boone "said those projects can run from \$10,000 to \$100,000." He said, "After almost 130 years of continued development, there are about 2,000 unplugged, abandoned wells on our reservation. These wells are an environmental and health hazard. Some are near schools and playgrounds."

Bureau Of Land Management

Mesa County, CO, Bids For BLM HQ.

[Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (5/14) reports that officials in Mesa County, Colorado are "making their pitch to host the national headquarters of the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management (BLM)." Earlier this year, the article says, "the three-member elected commission in Mesa County formally urged the Trump administration to consider moving BLM headquarters to Grand Junction, a city within the county."

Tribe Condemns Rep. Amodei Plan To Transfer Mine Property.

The [AP](#) (5/14) reports that "a Nevada tribe is condemning a congressman's proposal to give more than 2,000 acres of federal land at a contaminated mine to the corporation responsible for cleaning it up." Rep. Mark Amodei "told the Reno Gazette Journal officials for BP's subsidiary Atlantic Richfield asked him to introduce a bill to transfer more than 2,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management into their private hands." According to Amodei, "the transfer would speed up the cleanup of the former Anaconda copper mine near Yerington and reduce the burden on U.S. taxpayers." But Yerington Paiute Tribe chairman Laurie Thom "says Amodei never consulted tribal leaders about the proposal she calls a 'shameful' infringement on tribal sovereignty."

Also reporting is the [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (5/14, Spillman).

13 Wild Burros Shot To Death On BLM Land In Nevada.

The [AP](#) (5/14) reports that "authorities are investigating the killing of 13 federally protected wild burros in the high desert of southern Nevada about 120 miles (193

kilometers) northwest of Las Vegas." The Nye County Sheriff's office on Monday announced "deputies are assisting the U.S. Bureau of Land Management in an investigation into the shooting of the animals about 8 miles (13 kilometers) southeast of Beatty." [KVVU-TV](#) Las Vegas (5/14, Yahm) reports that "a special agent has been assigned to the case, the Bureau of Land Management said."

Prophecy Files Operations Plan For Vanadium Mine In Eureka County.

The [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (5/14, Featherston) reports that Prophecy Development Corp. has "submitted a plan of operations for the Gibellini vanadium project in Eureka County to the Bureau of Land Management." Prophecy will "update baseline studies, prepare an environmental report, and prepare a water pollution control permit application." According to the article, "if the studies and report is accepted, the BLM will prepare an environmental impact statement in about 2019."

Bureau Of Land Management Looking To Turn Land Into Recreation Area.

[KAMR-TV](#) Amarillo, TX (5/14, Baker) reports that "Potter County and the City of Amarillo are working with the Bureau of Land Management to bring some new recreation opportunities to our area." A potential site is "at a land-locked area owned by BLM near the Canadian River." According to the article, "the area is 12,000 acres in size and would become an area for hiking, cycling, and horseback riding."

Sage Grouse Saga Continues With Public Comment Period On Proposed Idaho Changes.

[KBSC-FM](#) Boise, ID (5/14, Barnhill) reports that "last June, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke opened federal sage grouse management plans approved in 2015 to state scrutiny." BLM Idaho spokesperson Heather Feeney "says the goal is to bring state and federal objectives closer together." Feeney said, "Just clarifying in the plans and aligning the management actions in the plans to reflect that the primary threat is wildland fire and not activities like livestock grazing."

Moffat County Commissioners To Send Letter Challenging BLM Decision On TransWest Power Line.

The [Craig \(CO\) Daily Press](#) (5/14) reports that the Moffat County Board of County Commissioners will "consider signing a letter to the Bureau of Land Management protesting the agency's decision to require mitigation in certain areas for impacts caused by the proposed TransWest Express power line." According to the article, "in the letter to the state directors of the Colorado and Wyoming Bureau of Land Management offices, the county challenges the BLM's legal authority to require compensatory mitigation in areas designated as Land with Wilderness Characteristics."

Bureau Of Reclamation

Companies Selected For Cultural Resource Services For Reclamation Projects.

The [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (5/14, Smith) reports that the Bureau of Reclamation has "awarded a \$50 million contract to three companies to address cultural resource work for reclamation projects in the region." According to a May 11 press release from the BOR, "the contract was awarded to Alpine Archaeological Consultants Inc. of Montrose, Colorado; Woods Canyon Archaeological Consultants Inc. of Cortez, Colorado; and Statistical Research Inc. of Tucson, Arizona." The companies will work with the agency and "other entities to identify, document and evaluate cultural sites located in project sites in northern New Mexico, western Colorado and the Upper Colorado region, the release states."

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

IPAA Supports Interior's Efforts To Remove Regulatory Hurdles To Offshore Safety.

[World Oil](#) (5/11) reported the IPAA has expressed support for the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement's "proposed revisions to the Blowout Preventer Systems and Well Control Rule." IPAA Senior Vice President Dan Naatz said "IPAA is pleased to see BSEE is taking a closer look at the technically-flawed Well Control Rule, which missed the mark on improving the safety of America's offshore oil and gas operations." Naatz added that "the overly-prescriptive Obama-era rule did not allow for flexibility or the ability to utilize the latest technologies, which would only enhance the safety of offshore operations. Instead, the 2016 rule created bureaucratic red tape for producers and arduous regulatory constraints at the expense of safety."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Feds Upgrade Cactus To 'Threatened' As Numbers Rebound.

[Courthouse News](#) (5/14, YOUNG-GRINDLE) reports that "reduced federal protection for a recovering southwest cactus is a win for ranchers who find protections burdensome, and for conservationists who strive to protect imperiled species." The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's "said Monday it has finalized the downlisting of the Tobusch fishhook cactus due to recovery." Amy Lueders, the agency's Southwest regional director, said, "While the Tobusch fishhook cactus isn't completely out of the woods yet, the signs are very encouraging. Today's decision to downlist the cactus is a victory for the collaborative model of conservation that engages states, private landowners and conservation groups to play a central role in species' recovery."

Also reporting is [E&E Publishing](#) (5/14, Doyle).

Group Wants Lake Sturgeon Federally Protected.

The [Duluth \(MN\) News Tribune](#) (5/14, Myers) reports that the Center for Biological Diversity has "petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to list lake sturgeon as 'threatened' across the 23 states where it was known to exist." According to the article, "sturgeon numbers have declined an estimated 99 percent since the 1800s." Marc Fink, an attorney for the center, said, "These behemoth fish are a bellwether for the health of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River. To guarantee their long-term survival, we need to give real protection to (sturgeon) and their habitats."

Forest Service Declines To Appeal Wolf Creek Decision.

The [Pagosa \(CO\) Daily Post](#) (5/14, Brown) reports that "the United States Forest Service and Fish and Wildlife Service has declined to appeal an Order issued last May by Senior Judge Richard P. Matsch setting aside decisions approving a land exchange that would provide necessary road access for the long-sought Village at Wolf Creek development." The Forest Service "failed to file the required appeal brief by the May 9 deadline despite having originally notified the court last November of its intent to appeal." Matthew Sandler, Staff Attorney for Rocky Mountain Wild, said, "We believe this decision by the Forest Service marks the end of this litigation process. Our hope is that the developer also sees it this way."

Federal Agency Plans Lamprey Treatment Of River.

The [Owosso \(MI\) Argus-Press](#) (5/14) reports that "U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service personnel will apply lampricides to the Shiawassee River system in Shiawassee and Saginaw Counties to kill sea lamprey larvae burrowed in the stream bottom between Tuesday and May 23, weather permitting." According to officials, "application will be completed in about three days."

How Do You Count Cottontail Rabbits When It's Hard To Even Find Them?

The [Concord \(NH\) Monitor](#) (5/14, Brooks) reports that "scientists with the New

Hampshire Agricultural Experiment Station at the University of New Hampshire have developed a method to estimate the abundance of New England cottontail populations." According to the article, "the noninvasive method provides an important tool in the effort to conserve this region's only native rabbit, a state-endangered species in Maine and New Hampshire." Adrienne Kovach, assistant professor of natural resources and the environment, said, "Our work provides the methodology to measure abundance and therefore an approach for monitoring trends and response to management in the future."

National Park Service

Amid Shake-up Reports, Yellowstone Superintendent Mulls Future At Park.

[KBZK-TV](#) Butte, MT (5/14, Sherer) reports that following a Washington Post report that "a half-dozen top National Park leaders will be moved to other jobs in a major shake-up of the agency by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke," Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Dan Wenk said he "might" move "if the call came with reasons why I should go, and how I could be helpful in terms of the National Park Service, to which I've devoted my career." However, "Wenk says he still has work to do in the park."

Group Behind Theodore Roosevelt Library Scraps 2-site Plan.

The [AP](#) (5/14, Nicholson) reports that "the foundation working to build a Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library in western North Dakota on Monday scrapped plans to split the planned complex into two parts, in two cities, angering a top state lawmaker." In March, the nonprofit foundation's board "voted to build a museum at Theodore Roosevelt National Park and a library about a half hour's drive away in Dickinson, where a university project is digitizing tens of thousands of Roosevelt documents." But "the board reversed course Monday, voting 9-2 to build the whole project at the park."

Drinking Water At Bryce Canyon National Park Tests Positive For E.

Coli. [KTVX-TV](#) Salt Lake City (5/14, Francis) reports that Garfield County Commission and the Garfield County Sheriff "jointly signed a formal resolution Monday that said the water" at Bryce Canyon National Park poses an "immediate, direct and significant threat to the health and safety and welfare of Garfield County's residents and visitors." According to officials, "the park's water system has tested positive for E. Coli contamination multiple times in the past seven years and the problem still has not been resolved." Officials "say the contamination due to Utah prairie dogs that have burrowed into the ground near the spring source."

Study Finds Highest Microplastic Concentration In The Apostle Islands.

[Wisconsin Public Radio](#) (5/14, Kaeding) reports that "a recent study of 35 national parks found the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore had the highest concentration of microplastics." The National Park Service "teamed up with South Carolina's Clemson University and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Marine Debris Program in 2015 for the two-year study." The study's lead author Stefanie Whitmire, research scientist with the Baruch Institute of Coastal Ecology and Forest Science at Clemson University, said, "There were some areas that were a lot higher like the Apostle Islands, which actually had the highest load of microplastics of any of our sites. The next highest sites were in the Pacific Islands in Hawaii."

Storm Update: Forecasters Lowered The Odds Of A Tropical System Forming In The Gulf Of Mexico To 30 Percent Over The Next Five Days.

The [Miami Herald](#) (5/14, Staletovich, Gurney) reports that "a messy storm brewing in the Gulf of Mexico and dumping heavy rain on South Florida looked a little less likely to become a tropical system Monday afternoon." According to the article, "ince most of the heavy weather is in the storm's southeast corner, that likely means more rain for South Florida, not unwelcome news for an area that has been struggling with drought

conditions and wildfires." The rain on Monday "helped douse a massive fire in the Big Cypress National Preserve that had blazed across more than 82,000 acres, the National Park Service said in an email."

The [Naples \(FL\) Daily News](#) (5/14, Hamilton) reports that National Park Service spokeswoman Punky Moore said, "It will take quite a bit of rain before they are considered out."

National Park Service: Fire Island's Watch Hill Marina Reopens Friday.

[Newsday \(NY\)](#) (5/14, Irizarry) reports that "the Watch Hill marina on Fire Island reopens Friday after being closed since September 2016 so electrical and lighting systems damaged by superstorm Sandy could be replaced, the National Park Service said." According to officials, "the marina at Sailors Haven to the west, which reopened in summer 2015 after months of Sandy-related repairs, also will open on Friday." Fire Island National Seashore facility manager Jim Dunphy said in a news release, "We are excited to have both sites up and running this season. With the opening of Watch Hill we can close the chapter on Hurricane Sandy recovery at Fire Island National Seashore."

Blue Ridge Parkway Pavement Preservation Work Starts In Asheville.

The [Asheville \(NC\) Citizen-Times](#) (5/14, Chávez) reports that the Blue Ridge Parkway will be "slightly stifled with slower traffic and single-lane closures as a major repaving project gets underway Tuesday." The project is "in an effort to upgrade the more than 80-year-old scenic motor road and keep it from crumbling under the weight of 16.1 million visitors a year." The National Park Service is "undertaking a 'pavement preservation' project on more than 65 miles of the parkway between Milepost 359 to the road's terminus at Milepost 469 in Cherokee."

After Pressure On Social Media, Zion Visitor Admits To Graffiti On Rock.

[KSTU-TV](#) Salt Lake City (5/14, Hartman) reports that "following 'swift and severe' backlash on social media, a suspect responsible for graffiti on a rock in Zion National Park has come forward." The backlash was unleashed "after a visitor at the park posted a photo of the graffiti, condemning the act." The National Park Service "stated that the individual was cooperating with investigators."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (5/15, Knox).

Insular And International Affairs

DOI Working To 'Build Bridges' With 5 Nations.

The [Marshall Islands Journal](#) (5/11) reported that Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular and International Affairs Doug Domenech "visited the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands late last month where he gave remarks and met with leaders of US-affiliated islands at the 23rd Micronesian Islands Forum." Domenech said, "The US government and the Department of the Interior under the leadership of Secretary Zinke will continue to be bridge-building partners. We must strengthen our relationships as we confront serious challenges together, both in the US territories as well as in the freely associated states." Domenech "participated in a second day of presentations at the leaders meeting to learn more about regional issues of concern for the islands of Micronesia such as workforce development, energy, invasive species, transportation, health, telecommunications, tourism, and preserving the environment."

Fr. Hezel: Japan Achieved Successes In Micronesia Unlike Any Nation Before Or Since.

The [Marianas Variety](#) (5/14) reports that "in the years before World War II, the Micronesian islands under Japanese rule were self-supporting, a level of economic independence never reached during the U.S. colonial period after the war or since independence in the mid-1980s, noted Pacific historian Francis X. Hezel, SJ, told a

packed lecture hall at Sophia University." Hezel's lecture, titled "Micronesia and Japan – The Islands that the Japanese Forgot," was delivered "to an audience of more than 130 – including Palau Ambassador Francis Matsutaro, Federated States of Micronesia Ambassador John Fritz, and Marshall Islands Ambassador Tom Kijiner." According to the article, "the Jesuit priest, who began serving in the Micronesian region in 1963, was invited to speak in Tokyo by Ambassador Peter Y. Sato, president of the Association for Promotion of International Cooperation, a private foundation that seeks to strengthen Japan's ties with nations of Oceania and the Caribbean, and Chancellor T. Sakuma, SJ, and President Yoshiaki Terumichi of Sophia University, the historic Jesuit school."

The Island Of Yap Where They Use Stones Instead Of Coins.

The [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (5/14) reports that on the Micronesian island of Yap, "instead of US dollars, giant limestone discs – some of which weigh more than a car – have been used to carry out transactions."

Bird Project Takes Flight.

The [Guam Daily Post](#) (5/12, Lujan) reports that a mural by local curator and artist Joshua Agerstrand "serves as part of an educational campaign commissioned by the Department of Agriculture's brown tree snake control awareness program, Kontra I Kulepbla – Challenge the Snake." The article notes that "KIK is part of a three-pronged federal program funded by the Office of Insular Affairs, which includes the U.S. Department of Agriculture as the firsthand respondents to snake control – physically going out to trap and suppress the local brown tree snake population, and the U.S. Geological Survey, which researches combative solutions, such as better snake bait."

How Hawaii Schools Are Building Bridges To Micronesian Students.

The [Honolulu Civil Beat \(HI\)](#) (5/9, Lee) examines "efforts to narrow the achievement gap among the growing numbers of Micronesian students in Hawaii." According to the article, "many schools around Hawaii have adopted a hands-on approach to reach these kids – and their families." For example, "there are training workshops for teachers centered around Micronesian culture, events tailored to familiarize Micronesian parents with the schools and community-organized events that recognize Micronesian student academic achievement."

Mapp Promises Two 'Beautiful' Announcements And Plan To Address GERS Insolvency.

The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (5/11) reports that Gov. Kenneth Mapp is "teasing what he said are two 'very beautiful' announcements that he promised would be revealed soon." The article confirms "that at least one relates to a major development at the Limetree Bay Terminals, with a possible restart of refining on the east side of the former refinery." Mapp also said "that he would soon unveil a plan to address the insolvency situation of the Government Employees' Retirement System (G.E.R.S.)."

US Geological Survey

Another Fissure Opens On Hawaii's Kilauea Volcano.

[NBC Nightly News](#) 📺 (5/14, story 4, 2:10, Holt) reported, "Hawaii's volcano disaster is intensifying as new eruptions spew lava and toxic gas" and "dozens of homes destroyed and many more in danger...with the largest eruption considered imminent." NBC (Almaguer) added that the volcano is releasing "gas so toxic, it's killing trees and grasses." [ABC World News Tonight](#) 📺 (5/14, story 5, 2:55, Muir) reported, "Nineteen fissures all spewing hot lava and gases." ABC adds, "Now all eyes on the crater where the lake has dropped 1,000 feet." The [CBS Evening News](#) 📺 (5/14, story 5, 2:05, Glor) reported, "The danger around Hawaii's Kilauea volcano is growing by the hour." CBS (Begnaud) added that the lava is "potentially trapping 2,000 residents."

The [AP](#) (5/15, Jones) reports on the continuing eruption of the Kilauea volcano, which had "another fissure spewing lava and unhealthy gas" open Monday. Meanwhile, "a crack in the Earth that emerged a day earlier was sending molten rock on a slow run for the ocean, officials said." In the past 12 days, "nearly 20 of the fissures have opened" and "officials warn it may soon blow its top."

4 Earthquakes Recorded Near Central Oklahoma Town.

The [AP](#) (5/14) reports several earthquakes have "been recorded near the central Oklahoma town of Crescent." According to the US Geological Survey, four quakes "ranging from 2.4 to 4.1" occurred "Sunday night through Monday morning, all near Crescent, about 35 miles north of Oklahoma City." Oklahoma's numerous earthquakes "in recent years have been linked to the underground injection of wastewater from oil and natural gas production." Regulators in the state "have directed several producers to close or reduce volumes in some wells."

Opinion Pieces

It's Really Early, But Is Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Running For President In 2024?

In his column for [Townhall](#) (5/15, Sherman), Steve Sherman writes that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke appears to be "the first Republican to attempt to quietly dip his toe in the Iowa waters" with an eye on running for president in 2024. Sherman writes that if "Zinke is preparing to take his show on the road in Iowa, modeling" former Sen. Rick Santorum's "method is a good idea." Sherman points to Santorum's strong "ground game," his willingness to "field the tough questions," and his "great sacrifice and hard work."

Guest View: Heed Nature's Lessons, And Don't Rebuild Sperry Chalet.

In an op-ed for the [Montana Standard](#) (5/14, O'Brien), Colleen O'Brien, a business owner in East Glacier, opposes the plan to rebuild Sperry Chalet as "a misguided attempt to recover an irrecoverable loss." O'Brien asks, "How many tens of millions are we willing to spend to build yet another exclusive lodge that will never replace the one we lost?" She writes "that money would be better spent on toilets and shuttle buses, projects that ensure access to the park while helping to mitigate the impact of so many visitors on critical habitat."

Top National News

Media Analyses: US Embassy Opening Overshadowed By Deadly Palestinian Protests.

Media coverage of the opening of the new US Embassy in Jerusalem was largely overshadowed by protests in Gaza, where at least 55 people were killed and over two thousand were injured by the Israeli military. Reports are generally critical of Israel over its use of "excessive force" against protesters and note the White House blamed Hamas for the violence.

[NBC Nightly News](#) 📺 (5/14, story 2, 3:10, Holt) reported, "Dozens of Palestinians have been killed and thousands more wounded as protests erupt over the US Embassy in Jerusalem." Matt Bradley reported from Gaza where "tens of thousands of Palestinian protesters have been trying...to breach that border into Israel. The reaction from Israel, such as sniper fire and artillery, has led to more deaths here." Palestinians are planning to hold more demonstrations Tuesday. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, A1, Schwartz, Jones) reports on its front page that the Gaza protests are expected to peak Tuesday, on what Palestinians call Nakba Day, marking the day after the anniversary of Israel's founding on May 14, 1948.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) 📺 (5/14, story 4, 3:40, Muir) said "tens of thousands of

Palestinians protested" the embassy's move. At least 55 protesters were killed, according to Palestinian health authorities, and more than 2,700 injured. ABC said the images from Gaza are a "stark contrast" from the celebrations in Jerusalem, where Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hailed it as "a great day for Israel." President Trump spoke via video, "Our greatest hope is for peace. The United States remains fully committed to facilitating a lasting peace agreement." [The Hill](#) (5/14, Manchester) reports the President also [tweeted](#) his congratulations, "Big day for Israel. Congratulations!"

The [CBS Evening News](#) (5/14, story 2, 3:20, Glor) said that while "President Trump made good on his campaign promise to move the US Embassy...the reality today was violence, especially in Gaza." Holly Williams reported from Gaza, where "Israeli soldiers dropped tear gas canisters from drones. They had already dropped leaflets warning Palestinians not to get too close to the fence. And when they did, the Israelis used live ammunition."

The [Jerusalem Post](#) (5/14, Ahronheim) reports that "some 40,000 Palestinians took part in violent demonstrations at 13 different locations along the fence," and the [Times Of Israel](#) (5/14) reports the Israeli army said that "three of those killed were trying to plant explosives at the border fence," and in "three separate incidents, Palestinian gunmen opened fire at Israeli troops." The [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Morris, Balousha) says Monday's protests "appeared to have a more violent edge than in previous weeks. Some young men brought knives and fence cutters." No Israeli soldiers were injured, though, in the protests and Israel "drew widespread condemnation for an excessive use of force."

[USA Today](#) (5/14, Plachta, Bacon) reports the Palestinian Foreign Ministry said in a statement, "This disproportionate and illegal use of lethal force against unarmed civilian protesters is criminal." Israeli military spokesman Lt. Col. Jonathan Conricus, however, blamed Hamas, saying the group had "encouraged Palestinians to breach the border fence." White House Deputy Press Secretary Raj Shah also blamed Hamas for the deaths, saying the group was "cynically provoking" the Israeli response.

The [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Hudson) reports Israel, Shah argued, "has the right to defend itself." The Post says the Administration's "refusal to criticize Israel for the escalating violence was immediately criticized by Palestinian and human rights groups who said the United States must call on its key ally to exercise restraint amid the escalating chaos and violence." In an interview, Palestinian envoy to the US, Husam Zomlot, said, "The US silence is license to kill for Israel, and Israel is taking this license to heart and implementing it in full."

The [Washington Times](#) (5/14, Miller) reports Shah also insisted that Monday's violence "did not signal the peace deal had derailed." Said Shah, "I don't think it hurts the peace plan. The peace plan will be introduced at the appropriate time." Kellyanne Conway said on [Fox News' The Story](#) (5/14), "We think these deaths are tragic, of course, any loss of life is. At the same time, Hamas bears the responsibility for killing these individuals." The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Davis) says that while the White House "said the violence in Gaza would not hinder its efforts to seek an end to the conflict," the Administration "also made it abundantly clear on Monday that Mr. Trump was currently siding with Israel" by blaming Hamas for the violence.

To the [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Eglash), Monday's "joyous ceremony" was "a largely symbolic step that nonetheless is of deep political significance, here and in the Palestinians territories." In his video address, Trump "said that he was still hopeful for peace between Israelis and Palestinians," but "at a hastily convened news conference," Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas called the new US embassy "an illegal outpost," and called Monday's killings in Gaza "a massacre." Abbas, the [CBS Evening News](#) (5/14, story 4, 1:40, Glor) reported, "said he would never accept any peace deal put forward by the Trump Administration at this point."

Many reports also contrasted the celebratory scene at the embassy with the deadly clashes in Gaza. [Bloomberg News](#) (5/14, Noueihed), for example, says the day's events "produced split-screen cable television coverage in the US showing the ceremony at the new embassy and the fighting in Gaza," and to the [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Morris,

Balousha), the violence in Gaza "was jarring contrast with the star-studded opening ceremony for the embassy in Jerusalem." Under the headline "Deadliest Palestinian Protests In Years Mar Historic Embassy Opening," the [Washington Times](#) (5/14, Frantzman) says Monday was "a day of surreal, split-screen contrasts" as "the daughter of President Trump headlined a celebration of the opening of a US Embassy in Jerusalem" and "just miles away more than 50 Palestinians were killed in the deadliest protests against Israeli occupation in years."

[Politico](#) (5/14, Nelson) likewise says Monday's images "made for jarring split screens beamed worldwide," and the [New York Times](#) (5/14, Halbfinger, Kershner, Walsh) reports that "even as Palestinians' anger erupted, American and Israeli officials celebrated President Trump's move of the embassy to Jerusalem." In its lead story, [Fox News Special Report](#) (5/14) reported that the opening of the new embassy "is sparking a wide range of emotions. From jubilation among Israel and its supporters in the Trump Administration, to deadly rage from Palestinians and their supporters throughout the world."

The [AP](#) (5/14, Flaherty, Lucey) reports the President "and his top aides on Monday hailed the opening of the new US Embassy in Jerusalem as a 'great day.'" Jared Kushner told the opening ceremony, "While presidents before him have backed down from their pledge to move the American embassy once they were in office, this president delivered. Because when President Trump makes a promise, he keeps it."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14) editorial page also praises Trump for fulfilling his campaign promise to move the embassy, noting that the move had been promised by multiple US presidents before him, including Bill Clinton and George W. Bush.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (5/14, story 2, 3:10, Holt) noted that Trump's daughter Ivanka was also on hand, "helping...unveil the new embassy seal," and [Reuters](#) (5/14) reports that during the ceremony, Netanyahu thanked Trump for "having the courage to keep your promises." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/14, Zavis), however, notes that Monday's ceremony "was shunned by US allies in western Europe," and [Bloomberg News](#) (5/14, Ramadan) reports that while the ceremony was in progress, EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini issued a statement, "The ties of the Jewish people to Jerusalem are irrefutable, and must not be denied. And the same is true for the ties of the Palestinian people to the city."

Jeff Glor reported on the [CBS Evening News](#) (5/14, story 3, 3:20) that the UN's human rights office "criticized what it called the 'shocking killing of dozen by Israeli live fire,' but Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu said Israel was acting in self-defense."

The [New York Times](#) (5/14) editorializes that the President "delivered the embassy as a gift without concession or condition" to Israel, and "the world did not witness a new dawn of peace and security for two peoples who have dreamed of both for so long. Instead, it watched as Israeli soldiers shot and killed scores of Palestinian protesters, and wounded thousands more." The Times acknowledges that Israel "has every right to defend its borders," but officials "are unconvincing when they argue that only live ammunition – rather than tear gas, water cannons and other nonlethal measures – can protect Israel from being overrun."

Dana Milbank writes in his [Washington Post](#) (5/14) column, "Here's a split-screen for our times: While Israeli troops were killing dozens of Palestinian protesters in Gaza on Monday, Trump administration representatives were 50 miles away in Jerusalem, celebrating with Israeli officials the opening of the US Embassy there and praising their mutual devotion to peace. ... Because nothing says 'peace' like 58 Palestinians killed, 2,700 wounded, renewed hostilities between Iran and Israel, the entire region aflame and US allies reeling."

US Boosts Security At Embassies In The Region. The [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Lamothe) reports that the US military "dispatched additional Marines to guard US embassies" as the US Embassy in Israel prepared to move from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Spokesman Marine Capt. Ryan Alvis "said the service would not disclose the number of additional Marines deploying or where they are going but said the reinforcements had been requested." [NBC News](#) (5/14, Kube) reported on its website that the reinforcements

"were sent to Israel, Turkey and Jordan, citing five defense officials."

Protest Organizer Decries Violence, Vows To Continue. Palestinian journalist Ahmed Abu Ratima, who helped organize the Gaza protests, writes in the [New York Times](#) (5/14) that "despite the response from Israeli snipers, I continue to be committed to nonviolence, as are all of the other people 'coordinating' this march. ... We want peaceful, equal coexistence to be our message." At the same time, he pledged to continue to protest writing, "We are not going back to our subhuman existence. We will keep knocking at the doors of international organizations and our Israeli jailers until we see concrete steps to end the blockade of Gaza."

Pastor Who Said Jews Are Going To Hell Led Prayer At Embassy Opening. The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Haag) reports that "a Dallas evangelical pastor who once said that Jewish people are going to hell and a megachurch televangelist who claimed that Hitler was part of God's plan to return Jews to Israel both played prominent roles" at Monday's opening ceremony. Robert Jeffress, who is pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas, "delivered a prayer at the opening ceremony on Monday, while the Rev. John C. Hagee, a televangelist who founded Christians United for Israel and leads a San Antonio megachurch, gave the closing benediction."

[Politico](#) (5/14, Nelson) reports Mitt Romney called Jeffress a "religious bigot" who is unworthy of such an honorary role. On Twitter Sunday night, Romney said, "Robert Jeffress says 'you can't be saved by being a Jew,' and 'Mormonism is a heresy from the pit of hell,. He's said the same about Islam. Such a religious bigot should not be giving the prayer that opens the United States Embassy in Jerusalem."

Israeli Ambassador Awards Trump Medal. [Breitbart](#) (5/14, Moons) reports Israeli Ambassador to the US Ron Dermer, at an event celebrating Israel's 70th independence Monday night in Washington, "praised and awarded a medal" to President Trump "for recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, moving the US embassy there, and for leaving the Iran nuclear deal." The ambassador "told the crowd of several hundred" that Trump was honored "because of his bold and historic decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital." Vice President Pence accepted the award on Trump's behalf.

Iranian Group Offers \$100,000 For Destruction Of New Embassy. The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (5/14, Kredo) reports that a "hardline Iranian organization is reportedly offering a \$100,000 reward to any person who bombs the newly opened US embassy in Jerusalem, according to a translation of Farsi language reports." A group known as the Iranian Justice Seeker Student Movement "is reported to have disseminated posters calling for an attack" on the new embassy in exchange for a "\$100,000 dollar prize."

Media Analyses: Trump's Overture To China On ZTE Is A Stunning Shift.

Following on his Sunday [tweet](#) about "working together" with Chinese President Xi Jinping "to give massive Chinese phone company, ZTE, a way to get back into business, fast," President Trump [tweeted](#) Monday afternoon, "ZTE, the large Chinese phone company, buys a big percentage of individual parts from US companies. This is also reflective of the larger trade deal we are negotiating with China and my personal relationship with President Xi."

The [AP](#) (5/14) reports that the Commerce Department "last month blocked ZTE from importing American components for seven years" before the President's "surprising overture" this weekend. White House Deputy Press Secretary Raj Shah said that Trump has asked Commerce Secretary Ross "to look into lifting or easing sanctions" against ZTE "as part of a 'give and take' with China."

The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Swanson, Landler, Bradsher) reports under the headline "Trump Shifts From Trade War Threats To Concessions In Rebuff To Hard-Liners" that "the shift is an abrupt reversal that reflects another twist in the pitched battle inside the White House between the economic nationalists...and more mainstream advisers." Treasury Secretary Mnuchin "has taken the lead role in trying to head off potentially harmful tariffs and investment restrictions on China and has succeeded, at least for now, in persuading Mr. Trump to adopt a more conciliatory approach." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, A1, Wei, Davis) reports on its front page that the President's announcement was

not preceded by interagency discussions on the shift.

Bret Baier reported on [Fox News Special Report](#) (5/14) that Trump is "raising eyebrows" with the move, while Jim Sciutto reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (5/14) that "every US intel agency said that ZTE phones...are at risk of surveillance, electronic backdoors, by the Chinese government." ZTE also violated US sanctions against both North Korea and Iran "and lied about" doing so. Tom Rogan of the [Washington Examiner](#) (5/14, Rogan) says ZTE is "a partial front company and cover operation for the Chinese intelligence community and a critical node by which Beijing seeks to steal American secrets."

[Bloomberg News](#) (5/14, Sink) reports that the President's "conciliatory move to help" ZTE "stoked bipartisan condemnation in Washington Monday, as lawmakers warned the US president's concession could endanger national security." [USA Today](#) (5/14, Jackson) reports that "critics hit President Trump for seeking to help a Chinese phone company accused of involvement in cyber espionage against Americans."

The [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Paletta, Lynch, Dawsey) reports that "senior Republicans said they were caught off guard." Sen. Charles Grassley said, "I'm kind of surprised, considering the decisions that were made previously on national security; it kind of surprises me, and I haven't figured it out." The [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Hawkins) reported earlier that Sen. Marco Rubio tweeted that the "problem with ZTE isn't jobs & trade, it's national security & espionage." Rubio said on [Fox News' Ingraham Angle](#) (5/14), "I don't feel bad for these companies, because frankly they have benefited greatly and continue to benefit greatly from the theft of intellectual property. ... To be selling American technology to ZTE is going to allow them to get it and then reverse-engineer it."

[Bloomberg News](#) (5/14, Sink) reports that Senate Minority Leader Schumer was also critical, saying, "This leads to the greatest worry, which is that the President will back off on what China fears most – a crackdown on intellectual property theft – in exchange for buying some goods in the short run." Bloomberg reports that another Democrat, Rep. Tim Ryan (D-OH), pointed out that "Trump's tweets had highlighted layoffs in China even as autoworkers were losing their job in his home state."

[Bloomberg News](#) (5/14, Woods, Leonard) reports that hours before Trump's Monday tweet, Ross told reporters at the National Press Club that the US was "exploring alternatives to punish" ZTE. Ross said, "ZTE did do some inappropriate things. They've admitted to that. The question is, are there alternative remedies to the one that we had originally put forward and that's the area we will be exploring very, very promptly."

In an editorial headlined "Trump Lets ZTE Off The Hook," the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14) faults Trump's arbitrary style of decision-making for a radical and unexpected reversal that shocked even Trump's closest advisers. Steve Hayes of the Weekly Standard said on [Fox News Special Report](#) (5/14), "I'm scratching my head and disappointed at the President's tweet. ... This is an indication of the ad hoc national security policy making that I think we have seen from President Trump too often over the first 18 months in office." [The Hill](#) (5/14, Chalfant, Breland) headlines its report "Lawmakers Stunned By Trump Push To Help Chinese Company."

Trump, Kim Disagree On Whether Disarmament, Sanctions Relief Comes First.

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (5/14, Tweed) reports President Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un "appear to be on a collision course over" whether disarmament should precede sanctions relief. Both Secretary of State Pompeo and NSA Bolton said on Sunday that "the U.S. needs proof that North Korea's denuclearization is complete, verifiable, and irreversible before sanctions are lifted," while "Kim has called for a step-by-step process to rid the Korean Peninsula of nuclear weapons." Bloomberg adds that reconciling the two sides "is crucial for" the success of the upcoming Trump-Kim summit. Still, in an interview with Fox News Sunday, Pompeo said, "America's interest here is preventing the risk that North Korea will launch a nuclear weapon into L.A. or Denver or into the very place we're sitting here this morning," raising "questions about whether the U.S. would accept a deal that simply prevents North Korea from being able to hit the American

homeland with a nuclear bomb."

Defector: North Korea Has Different Concept Of Denuclearization. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Chae, Jeong) reports former North Korean deputy ambassador in London Thae Yong Ho, who defected to the South, said that Kim has a different concept of denuclearization than the US. He added that Washington's denuclearization demands would challenge the North's fundamental power structure.

Politico: Despite GOP Claims, Little Evidence Tax Cuts Are Impacting Economy.

[Politico](#) (5/14, Faler) reports that while Republicans "are pointing to the strong economy as proof their new tax law is working its magic," there is "little evidence the tax cuts are already having an impact across the economy, which was already humming even before the law was enacted." This "hasn't stopped the GOP from claiming credit" as the "economic dividends of the new law are central to their midterm plans."

SCOTUS Strikes Down Sports Betting Law, Allowing States To Enter \$150 Billion Industry.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (5/14, story 6, 1:20, Glor) reported that the Supreme Court "has opened the door to a dramatic expansion of legal sports betting." CBS (Crawford) reported that the justices "said a 1992 federal law that banned all but a handful of states from having sports betting violated states rights." The gaming industry "is calling this a ground-breaking decision that will revolutionize the gambling business, and it's also a major victory for states like New Jersey, which challenged the law and says it will have sports betting up and running there in a couple weeks."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (5/14, story 3, 2:10, Holt) reported that the "the 6-3 ruling declared the federal law unconstitutional, a violation on state's rights." NBC (Williams) added that "it opens the door to betting on pro and college games of all kind, but where you can place your bets is up to the states." Nine states "already have laws or will to legalize sports betting, and a dozen more plan to consider similar laws to bring sports gambling to half the state," and all are "hoping to get a piece of \$150 billion a year Americans already bet illegally."

The [AP](#) (5/14, Gresko) reports that the court "gave its go-ahead for states to allow gambling on sports across the nation, striking down a federal law that barred betting on football, basketball, baseball and other sports in most states." The court struck down the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act, which "forbade state-authorized sports gambling with some exceptions" and "made Nevada the only state where a person could wager on the results of a single game." Justice Samuel Alito "wrote for the court, 'The legalization of sports gambling requires an important policy choice, but the choice is not ours to make. Congress can regulate sports gambling directly, but if it elects not to do so, each state is free to act on its own. Our job is to interpret the law Congress has enacted and decide whether it is consistent with the Constitution. PASPA is not.'" Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer and Sonia Sotomayor dissented.

The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Liptak, Draper) reports that the dissenting justices said "the majority had ruled too broadly. 'The court wields an ax,' Justice Ginsburg wrote, 'instead of using a scalpel to trim the statute.'"

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Kendall, Kirkham) reports that Justice Alito was joined by Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Anthony Kennedy, Clarence Thomas, Elena Kagan and Neil Gorsuch. The Journal adds that sports leagues and the National Collegiate Athletic Association had sued New Jersey to put a halt to its betting plans, but that the four major professional sports leagues – the National Football League, National Basketball Association, Major League Baseball and National Hockey League – have been preparing for this ruling, with the NBA and MLB positioning themselves for a cut of the action in their sports, while the NFL is expected to seek legislation that would require any new sports gambling operation to utilize the league's officially sanctioned data.

[Bloomberg News](#) (5/14, Stohr) reports that sports gambling "could begin in a matter of weeks in casinos and racetracks in New Jersey, which instigated the legal fight by repealing its gambling ban," and that Mississippi, Pennsylvania, New York, Delaware

and West Virginia “could follow soon, and the number of states might reach double digits by the end of the year.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14) editorializes in support of the ruling from a libertarian point of view, arguing that the issue was not so much gambling as individual liberty.

In an editorial, [USA Today](#) (5/14) urges Congress to put limits on the scope of sports gambling, emphasizing the inherent financial risks to individuals and for states who might see entry into the betting industry as an attractive source of easy revenue without reckoning the potential for corruption.

In an op-ed for [USA Today](#) (5/14), Geoff Freeman, president and CEO of the American Gaming Association, argues that the ruling “will deliver what millions of Americans have been seeking – a safe, legal and regulated environment to bet on sports,” and that “through smart, efficient regulation, we also can finally create a betting market that protects consumers, preserves the integrity of the games we love, empowers law enforcement to fight illegal gambling, and generates new revenues for states, sports leagues and broadcasters.”

Trumka, Walsh Argue For Federal Infrastructure Spending.

In an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14), AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka and Boston Mayor Marty Walsh make a case for federal investment in infrastructure, writing that infrastructure spending would create jobs. Trumka and Walsh argue that the President’s infrastructure plan would reduce the federal contribution to infrastructure projects and increase the burden on cities and states.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“Trump’s Failure In Jerusalem.” The [New York Times](#) (5/14) editorializes that President Trump “delivered the embassy as a gift without concession or condition” to Israel, and “the world did not witness a new dawn of peace and security for two peoples who have dreamed of both for so long. Instead, it watched as Israeli soldiers shot and killed scores of Palestinian protesters, and wounded thousands more.” The Times acknowledges that Israel “has every right to defend its borders,” but officials “are unconvincing when they argue that only live ammunition – rather than tear gas, water cannons and other nonlethal measures – can protect Israel from being overrun.”

“The Legacy Of Stop-And-Frisk In New York’s Marijuana Arrests.” The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Board) editorializes on the treatment of black and Latino people by the New York Police Department with respect to “petty marijuana offenses,” saying that a recent Times investigation showed that “marijuana use has been informally legalized for white, middle-class citizens even as it has remained punishable under the law for black and Latino New Yorkers.” The Times says that though the legislature “failed to make the public display of marijuana an offense akin to a traffic violation,” prosecutors “should lead the way by refusing to bring these cases to court at all.”

Washington Post.

“One Year Of Integrity From Robert Mueller.” The [Washington Post](#) (5/14) says in an editorial that “by all appearances,” Special Counsel Robert Mueller “has performed with professionalism, integrity and remarkable efficiency. That is not President Trump’s view, of course.” But Mueller “has secured guilty pleas from, or indictments against, 19 people and three firms,” and there is no evidence that Mueller “has overstepped proper boundaries of prosecutorial behavior.”

“A Positive Sign From The Middle East: Iraq’s Democratic Election.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (5/14) calls Iraq’s elections possibly “the most significant development of the year thus far” and “a remarkable achievement” due to their being “competitive, fair and largely free of violence.” The Post adds this could be “an opportunity to reinforce the incipient shift toward nonsectarian politics built around

support for Iraqi sovereignty – including from Iran.”

“Maryland Took A Step To Protect Vulnerable, Young Lives. Other States Should Follow Suit.” The [Washington Post](#) (5/14) in an editorial endorses Maryland’s move under Gov. Larry Hogan to require “insurance companies to be more diligent before insuring the lives of children.” The bill, which will take effect next January “mandates insurance companies [to] tighten underwriting procedures and standards on juvenile life insurance policies.” The Post suggests there should be “national action,” but also says that is “unlikely and would be challenged as counter to the 1945 McCarran-Ferguson Act, which gives states exclusive domain over insurance regulation.”

Wall Street Journal.

“Trump Lets ZTE Off The Hook.” In an editorial on President Trump’s decision to help rescue the Chinese telecom company ZTE, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14) faults Trump’s arbitrary style of decision-making for a radical and unexpected reversal that shocked even Trump’s closest advisers.

“The Issue Is Liberty, Not Gambling.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14) editorializes in support of the Supreme Court’s ruling striking down a sports betting law from a libertarian point of view, arguing that the issue was not so much gambling as individual liberty.

“From Washington To Jerusalem.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14) editorial page praises President Trump for fulfilling his campaign promise to move the US Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, noting that the move had been promised by multiple US presidents before him, including Bill Clinton and George W. Bush.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[CBS Ups Stakes In Feud With Redstones](#)

[Scores Killed, Thousands Injured In Protests As US Opens Jerusalem Embassy](#)

[Supreme Court Ruling Opens Door To Sports Betting](#)

[How The World’s Biggest Companies Are Fine-Tuning The Robot Revolution](#)

[US, China Weigh Deal On ZTE, Agricultural Tariffs](#)

[“Love Stories Of Tumblr”: How The Entire Internet Became A Dating Site](#)

New York Times:

[Death In Gaza, New Embassy In Jerusalem, And Peace As Distant As Ever](#)

[Waves Of Gazans Vs. Israeli Tear Gas And Bullets: Deadliest Mayhem In Years](#)

[Supreme Court Ruling Favors Sports Betting](#)

[Iraqi Voters Strengthen Hand Of Militia Leader Who Battled U.S.](#)

[Pence Is Trying To Control Republican Politics. Trump Aides Aren’t Happy.](#)

[Trump Shifts From Trade War Threats To Concessions In Rebuff To Hard-Liners](#)

Washington Post:

[“Glorious Day” In Jerusalem Met With US Allies’ Criticism And Arab Anger](#)

[Maverick Cleric’s Sway Could Rattle US-Iraq Relationship](#)

[Before Talks With China, President’s Tumult Reigns](#)

[Trump’s Trump-Like Adversary](#)

[58 Palestinians Killed In Gaza Protests](#)

[Justices Rule That States Can Authorize Sports Betting](#)

Washington Times:

[Deadliest Palestinian protests in years mar historic Jerusalem embassy opening](#)

[Supreme Court clears path for states to legalize sports gambling](#)

[Trump administration moves to shift gun export approval from State to Commerce](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: First Lady Kidney Surgery; WH Aide-McCain Comment; First Lady Kidney Surgery-Expert Comment; US Israel Embassy Move; Hawaii Volcano Eruption; Severe Weather; Teen Vehicle Prank Death Investigation; UK Royal Wedding Week; Prom Gone Wild; Armed Mother Gunman Confrontation; Milwaukee Police Violence; Cleveland Home Explosion; Lois Lane Dies.

CBS: First Lady Kidney Surgery; US Israel Embassy Move; US Israel Embassy Move-Local Reactions; US Israel Embassy Move-Palestine; Hawaii Volcano Eruption; SCOTUS Sports Betting Ruling; California Child Abuse; Teen Vehicle Prank Death Investigation; Eggs Salmonella Outbreak Warning; Christian Pilgrimage.

NBC: First Lady Kidney Surgery; US Israel Embassy Move; SCOTUS Sports Betting Ruling; Hawaii Volcano Eruption; Severe Weather; California Child Abuse; Teen Vehicle Prank Death Investigation; Eggs Salmonella Outbreak Warning; UK Royal Wedding Week; Lois Lane Dies; Prom Gone Wild; Aircraft Tail Clipped Incident; Care Giver Charity.

Network TV At A Glance:

US Israel Embassy Move – 15 minutes, 10 seconds

Hawaii Volcano Eruption – 7 minutes, 10 seconds

First Lady Kidney Surgery – 7 minutes, 5 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: First Lady Kidney Surgery; US Israel Embassy Move; California Minor Earthquake; Midterm Primaries.

CBS: First Lady Kidney Surgery; US Israel Embassy Move; Milwaukee Police Violence; SCOTUS Sports Betting Ruling; California Minor Earthquake.

FOX: Missouri Governor Scandal Trial; Seattle Corporate Homeless Tax; California Child Abuse.

NPR: US Israel Embassy Move; Missouri Governor Scandal Trial; First Lady Kidney Surgery; Seattle Corporate Homeless Tax.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Gives remarks at the 37th Annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service; participates in a Senate Republican policy lunch.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public schedule announced.

US Senate: 9:30 AM Senate Intelligence Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers William R. Evanina to be Office of the Director of National Intelligence National Counterintelligence and Security Center Director Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 106, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

10:00 AM Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee fifth hearing on U.S. leadership in the Asia-Pacific – East Asia, The Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy Subcommittee hearing on 'American Leadership In The Asia Pacific, Part 5: The Asia Reassurance Initiative Act', with testimony from Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs Randall Shriver; and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Alex Wong Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate HELP Committee hearing on the 340B Drug Discount Program – Hearing on 'Examining Oversight Reports on the 340B Drug Pricing Program', with testimony from Department of Health and Human Services Assistant Inspector General for Evaluation and Inspections Ann Maxwell; and Government Accountability Office Health Care Team Director Dr Debra Draper Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 430, Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Smokey Robinson testifies to Senate Judiciary Committee – Hearing on 'Protecting and Promoting Music Creation for the 21st Century', with testimony from

recording artist, songwriter, and producer Smokey Robinson; National Music Publishers Association President and CEO David Israelite; Public Knowledge Policy Counsel Meredith Rose; GRAMMY-nominated singer/songwriter and Recording Academy trustee Justin Roberts; Digital Media Association CEO Chris Harrison; Music Choice CEO Dave Del Beccaro; Recording Industry Association of America President Mitch Glazier; and songwriter Josh Kear Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Nominations hearing considers Aimee Kathryn Jorjani to be Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Chair Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 366, Washington, DC www.energy.senate.gov

10:00 AM Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Executive Session Location: Rm 538, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://banking.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Banking Committee considers Federal Reserve governor nominees – Nominations hearing considers Richard Clarida to be Federal Reserve System Board of Governors Vice Chairman and member, and Michelle Bowman to be a Federal Reserve System Board of Governors member Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 538, Washington, DC <http://banking.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing on U.S. Army FY'19 budget – Defense Subcommittee 'Hearing to review the Fiscal Year 2019 funding request and budget justification for the U.S. Army', with testimony from Secretary of the Army Mark Esper; and U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley Location: Rm 192, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

1:00 PM President Trump attends Senate Republican policy lunch – President Donald Trump addresses Republican senators at their weekly policy lunch, discussing tax reform, the economy, and North Korea Location: U.S. Capitol, Mansfield Rm, Washington, DC <http://src.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/SenateGOP>

2:30 PM Senate Commerce subcommittee hearing on trends in mobile technologies – Communications, Technology, Innovation and the Internet Subcommittee hearing on 'There's an App for That: Trends in Mobile Technologies', with testimony from Innovate Mississippi Chairman / Mississippi Coding Academies founder Mike Forster; Technology Policy Institute Research Fellow Dr Sarah Oh; and ACT – The App Association President Morgan Reed Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 253, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce>

2:30 PM DHS Secretary Nielsen testifies to Senate Homeland Security Committee – Hearing on 'Authorities and Resources Needed to Protect and Secure the United States', with testimony from Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen Nielsen Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 342, Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>

3:30 PM SBA Administrator McMahon testifies to Senate Small Business Committee – Hearing on 'The State of Small Business in America: An Update from the U.S. Small Business Administration', with testimony from Small Business Administration Administrator Linda McMahon Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 428A, Washington, DC <http://sbc.senate.gov/>

4:00 PM Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing on FY'19 Congressional budgets – Legislative Branch Subcommittee 'Hearing to review the Fiscal Year 2019 funding request and budget justification for the Senate Sergeant at Arms and the U.S. Capitol Police', with testimony from Senate Sergeant at Arms Michael Stenger; and U.S. Capitol Police Chief Matthew Verderosa Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 138, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

US House: 1:00 PM House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer regular pen-and-pad briefing Location: H-144, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC www.democraticwhip.gov/
<https://twitter.com/WhipHoyer>

2:00 PM House meets for legislative business – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including consideration of 'H.R. 613 – Lieutenant Osvaldo Albarati Correctional Officer Self-Protection Act of 2017', 'H.R. 4854 – Justice

Served Act of 2018', 'H.R. 5242 – School Resource Officer Assessment Act of 2018', as amended, 'H.Res. 285 – Expressing the sense of the United States House of Representatives that Congress and the President should empower the creation of police and community alliances designed to enhance and improve communication and collaboration between members of the law enforcement community and the public they serve', 'H.R. 4895 – Medgar Evers National Monument Act', as amended, 'H.R. 2991 – Susquehanna National Heritage Area Act', as amended, 'S. 35 – Black Hills National Cemetery Boundary Expansion Act', 'S. 1285 – Oregon Tribal Economic Development Act', and 'H.R. 1417 – National Law Enforcement Museum Exhibits Act' under suspension of the rules Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

5:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on 'H.R. 2, the Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018', 'H.R. 5698 – Protect and Serve Act of 2018', and 'S. 2372' – the legislative vehicle for the VA MISSION Act of 2018 Location: U.S. Capitol, H-313. Washington, DC <http://www.rules.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

5:30 PM Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee markup hearing on FY 2019 Appropriations Bill Location: Rm 2007, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

House of Representatives annual Financial Disclosure Statements due – Deadline for annual Financial Disclosure Statements for 2017 from House of Representatives and related offices members, officers, and certain employees Location: TBD <http://www.house.gov/ethics/>

Other: 8:00 AM Axios360 News Shapers event with GOP Sen. James Inhofe and Dem Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton – Axios360 News Shapers event, with Republican Sen. James Inhofe, Democratic Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton and Austin Mayor Steve Adler speaking with Axios' Mike Allen on the news of the day and how it relates to Infrastructure Week Location: AJAX, 1011 4th Street Northwest, Washington, DC www.axios.com <https://twitter.com/axios>

8:00 AM Brookings Institution discussion on 'building inclusive infrastructure' – 'Building inclusive infrastructure: How the built environment limits pathways to opportunity, and what we can do about it' Brookings Institution Metropolitan Policy Program discussion as part of Infrastructure Week 2018, to discuss how shared economic, social, and environmental challenges look from an infrastructure perspective, and present the 'most promising' innovations to help address them. Includes pre-taped remarks from Democratic Sen. Amy Klobuchar Location: NACo/NLC Leadership Center, 660 North Capitol St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.brookings.edu> [#TimeToBuild](https://twitter.com/BrookingsInst)

9:00 AM GOP Rep. Brad Wenstrup attends AEI conversation on reforming the VA by empowering veterans – American Enterprise Institute hold conversation with Republican Rep. Brad Wenstrup on 'reforming the Department of Veterans Affairs by empowering veterans'. Other speakers include Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) Government Relations Acting Associate Executive Director Heather Ansley, Student Veterans of America Policy Director Lauren Augustine, RAND Corporation Senior Policy Researcher Phillip Carter, Military Times Deputy Editor Leo Shane III, and AEI Program on American Citizenship Manager Rebecca Burgess and Director Gary Schmitt Location: American Enterprise Institute, 1789 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC <http://www.aei.org/> <https://twitter.com/AEI>

9:00 AM FDA Commissioner Gottlieb speaks at Alliance for Health Policy Breakfast for Reporters – Alliance for Health Policy Breakfast for Reporters on 'Perspectives on the 2018 HHS Drug Pricing Guidance'. FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb delivers remarks, followed by panel discussion with Pharmaceutical Care Management Association Policy and Federal Affairs Senior Vice President Kristin Bass, PhRMA Policy, Research, & Membership Executive Vice President Lori Reilly, Blue Cross Blue Shield Association Office of Policy and Representation Senior Vice President Justine Handelman, and Campaign for Sustainable Drug Pricing (CSRxP) Executive Director Lauren Aronson Location: APCO Worldwide – Global Headquarters, 1299 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC www.allhealthpolicy.org <https://twitter.com/AllHealthPolicy>

11:00 AM Wreathlaying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery for Lao Hmong

veterans – Wreathlaying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery marking the 43rd anniversary of the fall of the Royal Kingdom of Laos by invading Soviet-backed communist forces of North Vietnam and the mass exodus of refugees across the Mekong River in 1975-76, conducted by Lao and Hmong-American veterans of the Vietnam War and their U.S. Special Forces Advisors. Speakers include Democrats Sens. Jack Reed and Sheldon Whitehouse and Rep. Jim Costa, Republicans Sens. Richard Burr and Lisa Murkowski and Reps. Devin Nunes and Sean Duggan, Under Secretary of Veterans' Affairs for Memorial Affairs Randy Reeves, Center for Public Policy Analysis Director Philip Smith, Lao Veterans of America's Christy Herr, Lao Veterans of America Institute of California President Maj. (Ret.) Cheurchai Vang, U.S. Special Forces Association's Col. (Ret.) Ray Oden and Col. (Ret.) James Bruton, and Arlington National Cemetery Superintendent Katharine Kelley Location: Arlington National Cemetery, Lao Veterans of America Monument, Arlington, VA centerforpublicpolicyanalysis.org <https://twitter.com/CPPAInfo>

Center for American Progress Ideas Conference – Center for American Progress Ideas Conference. Speakers include Democratic Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand, Elizabeth Warren. Cory Booker, Sherrod Brown, and Doug Jones, Reps. Ted Lieu and Terri Sewell, Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders, Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, New York City Mayor Bill De Blasio, and Planned Parenthood Federation of America President Cecile Richards Location: TBD www.americanprogress.org <https://twitter.com/amprog> #CAPIdeas2018

HUD Secretary Carson addresses REALTORS Legislative Meetings & Trade Expo – REALTORS Legislative Meetings & Trade Expo. Day two speakers include Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Ben Carson and Democratic Rep. Emanuel Cleaver * Held in various venues Location: Washington, DC <http://www.realtor.org> <https://twitter.com/REALTORS> #NARLegislative

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Trevor Noah: "I honestly don't know how these trade negotiations are going to shake out, but at this rate, I have a feeling Trump will drop the tariffs against China, and give them everything in exchange for a pair of nunchucks."

Trevor Noah: "Trump has gotten so popular [in Israel] that they are naming an Israeli soccer team after him, which is perfect because a lot of people don't know this, but that team only won their league because James Comey stepped in and tripped a player on the opposing team."

Jordan Klepper: "Months ago, Trump announced that he would be moving the US embassy to Jerusalem, a decision so bold it was condemned by many policy experts, saying it could provoke violent chaos, or cause Armageddon. But for a significant number of American evangelicals, that's not a bug – that's a feature."

Stephen Colbert: Trump celebrated "Mother's Day in the traditional way: a trade war with China."

Stephen Colbert: Trump's effort to help the Chinese company ZTE "is directly opposed to everything he's said. I can't wait for his next tweet: 'Have you heard about all the problems in Mexico? We've got to let those good people into our country. Build the ramp!'"

Stephen Colbert: "Make no mistake, ZTE is no friend of the US. In fact, the FBI, CIA, and NSA have publicly accused the company of allowing its devices to be used by the Chinese government to spy on Americans. And as an American, I do not want some Chinese company spying on me. I want Facebook doing it."

Stephen Colbert: "ZTE is only in financial trouble because they admitted to making illegal

shipments to Iran and North Korea. So the Trump Administration banned American companies from selling it components. You can't just reverse your own penalty. 'Sir, I pulled you over because you were driving 90 in a school zone. But you seem upset, so want to drive my car? It's got lights.'"

Stephen Colbert: "According to the US Ambassador to Israel, the act of moving the embassy sends the message to Israel that, 'you are not alone.' It's true, Israel isn't alone. There's a bunch of other people who live there, too. They're the angry ones."

Stephen Colbert: "The world's on fire, but at least we know Donald Trump is getting advice from the best people. For example, Fox News host and hurtful Irish stereotype Sean Hannity."

Jimmy Fallon: "I saw that President Trump made a Mother's Day video where he called his mom a great person, really warm and really smart, which can only mean one thing – Trump was adopted."

Jimmy Fallon: "Trump released a video message for Mother's Day where he called his mom warm, but also tough. Then he released another video where he said the same thing about thin-crust pizza."

James Corden: "The highest court in the land has struck down a federal law that banned sports gambling. So now it's going to be legal to bet on sports. ... This is all part of Trump's new economic initiative, 'A Failed Casino For Every State.'"

James Corden: "President Trump is still trying to work out a trade deal with China. Yesterday on Twitter, Trump tried to reassure Americans that the United States would work out a deal, writing, 'Be cool, I will all work out!' Be cool? What are his next words of wisdom? Chillax? If it doesn't work out with China, no biggie. Either way, it'll be sick."

James Corden: "According to a new article, most weeknights Donald Trump and Fox News host Sean Hannity have a bedtime phone call with each other. Just when you thought Trump couldn't be more in love with Fox News. You just know they end every phone call like, 'You hang up first, Sean.' 'No, you hang up first. 'Well, you didn't hang up either!'"

Seth Meyers: "White House senior adviser Jared Kushner spoke today at the opening of the new US Embassy in Jerusalem. It's great practice for Kushner because next week, he has to do an oral report in Social Studies."

Seth Meyers: "During his speech today, Jared Kushner credited President Trump for recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Don't ask Trump to name the capital of any other countries, though."

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Sent: Wed May 16 2018 05:25:47 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Susan Combs <susan_combs@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, May 15, 2018

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DOI In The News

EPA Administrator, Interior Secretary Speak At American Boating Congress.

The [Boating Industry](#) (5/14) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt were "among the high profile speakers from Washington" at the 2018 American Boating Congress. Zinke "acknowledged reorganization of the U.S. Department of the Interior and how he is looking for ways to tackle the maintenance backlog and improve access for recreational boaters." Zinke also "discussed public-private partnerships and ways they can play a role in improving access." In closing, Zinke appointed Correct Craft President and CEO Bill Yeargin to the "Made in America" Outdoor Recreation Advisory Committee.

The [Boating Industry](#) (5/14) reports that Zinke said, "The committee's collective experience as entrepreneurs and business leaders provide unique insight that is often lost in the Federal government. As we rebuild our nation's infrastructure, we can continue the exponential growth of the American recreation sector, which supports millions of American jobs and bares a significant impact on our economy."

Zinke Confirmed As N.D. Petroleum Conference Speaker.

The [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (5/15) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is "confirmed to deliver the keynote address next week at the Williston Basin Petroleum Conference in Bismarck." Zinke "said in a statement he's looking forward to speaking about how the Trump Administration is working to 'unleash North Dakota's full energy potential.'" He said, "The Williston Basin is an important piece in achieving President Donald Trump's goal of American energy dominance."

Interior Department Faces Ethics Queries As Official Meets With Koch-linked Group.

[The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (5/14, Tobias) reports that "records reviewed by the Guardian and Pacific Standard show that a high-level interior official, Douglas Domenech, held meetings with a previous employer, the Koch-linked Texas Public Policy Foundation, while it was involved in legal action against the department." Under the ethics rules of the interior department, the article says, "employees are usually required to recuse themselves from working on specific matters that involve recent employers and that could create the appearance of a conflict of interest." Interior Department spokeswoman Heather Swift said the meetings were "primarily social in nature." Swift added that Domenech had reported these meetings to "career ethics officials, and the department is addressing the matter internally".

Also reporting is the [Pacific Standard](#) (5/14, Tobias).

Arctic Oil 'Undrillable' Amid Global Warming: U.N.'s Ex-climate Chief.

[Reuters](#) (5/15, Doyle) reports that former United Nations climate chief Christina Figueres "said it made no economic sense to explore in the Arctic," citing economics of drilling and the threat to the ecologically fragile region. Figueres argued that it could take years to develop the funds needed to properly develop any finds in the region, and that type of investment would be better spent developing renewable energies.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Tribes Decry President Trump's Proposed Budget Cut To Bureau Of Indian Affairs.

The [Public Radio Tulsa \(OK\)](#) (5/14, Trotter) reports that tribes are upset with President Trump's proposed 2019 budget for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. National Congress of American Indians President Jefferson Keel said, "The 2019 president's budget for Indian Affairs would be a 15.6 percent decrease from the FY2018 CR level. Nearly every line item in the BIA budget would see reductions." According to Keel, "that means nearly every spending area will be cut, and some tribal priorities could be completely done away with."

Osage Nation Asks For More Federal Spending On Abandoned Wells.

The [Public Radio Tulsa \(OK\)](#) (5/14, Trotter) reports that "the Osage Nation hopes the final Bureau of Indian Affairs budget will help continue work to plug abandoned oil and gas wells on its land." Osage Minerals Councilwoman Cynthia Boone "said those projects can run from \$10,000 to \$100,000." He said, "After almost 130 years of continued development, there are about 2,000 unplugged, abandoned wells on our reservation. These wells are an environmental and health hazard. Some are near schools and playgrounds."

Bureau Of Land Management

Mesa County, CO, Bids For BLM HQ.

[Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (5/14) reports that officials in Mesa County, Colorado are "making their pitch to host the national headquarters of the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management (BLM)." Earlier this year, the article says, "the three-member elected commission in Mesa County formally urged the Trump administration to consider moving BLM headquarters to Grand Junction, a city within the county."

Tribe Condemns Rep. Amodei Plan To Transfer Mine Property.

The [AP](#) (5/14) reports that "a Nevada tribe is condemning a congressman's proposal to give more than 2,000 acres of federal land at a contaminated mine to the corporation responsible for cleaning it up." Rep. Mark Amodei "told the Reno Gazette Journal officials for BP's subsidiary Atlantic Richfield asked him to introduce a bill to transfer more than 2,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management into their private hands." According to Amodei, "the transfer would speed up the cleanup of the former Anaconda copper mine near Yerington and reduce the burden on U.S. taxpayers." But Yerington Paiute Tribe chairman Laurie Thom "says Amodei never consulted tribal leaders about the proposal she calls a 'shameful' infringement on tribal sovereignty."

Also reporting is the [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (5/14, Spillman).

13 Wild Burros Shot To Death On BLM Land In Nevada.

The [AP](#) (5/14) reports that "authorities are investigating the killing of 13 federally protected wild burros in the high desert of southern Nevada about 120 miles (193 kilometers) northwest of Las Vegas." The Nye County Sheriff's office on Monday announced "deputies are assisting the U.S. Bureau of Land Management in an investigation into the shooting of the animals about 8 miles (13 kilometers) southeast of Beatty." [KVVU-TV](#) Las Vegas (5/14, Yahm) reports that "a special agent has been

assigned to the case, the Bureau of Land Management said."

Prophecy Files Operations Plan For Vanadium Mine In Eureka County.

The [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (5/14, Featherston) reports that Prophecy Development Corp. has "submitted a plan of operations for the Gibellini vanadium project in Eureka County to the Bureau of Land Management." Prophecy will "update baseline studies, prepare an environmental report, and prepare a water pollution control permit application." According to the article, "if the studies and report is accepted, the BLM will prepare an environmental impact statement in about 2019."

Bureau Of Land Management Looking To Turn Land Into Recreation Area.

[KAMR-TV](#) Amarillo, TX (5/14, Baker) reports that "Potter County and the City of Amarillo are working with the Bureau of Land Management to bring some new recreation opportunities to our area." A potential site is "at a land-locked area owned by BLM near the Canadian River." According to the article, "the area is 12,000 acres in size and would become an area for hiking, cycling, and horseback riding."

Sage Grouse Saga Continues With Public Comment Period On Proposed Idaho Changes.

[KBSC-FM](#) Boise, ID (5/14, Barnhill) reports that "last June, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke opened federal sage grouse management plans approved in 2015 to state scrutiny." BLM Idaho spokesperson Heather Feeney "says the goal is to bring state and federal objectives closer together." Feeney said, "Just clarifying in the plans and aligning the management actions in the plans to reflect that the primary threat is wildland fire and not activities like livestock grazing."

Moffat County Commissioners To Send Letter Challenging BLM Decision On TransWest Power Line.

The [Craig \(CO\) Daily Press](#) (5/14) reports that the Moffat County Board of County Commissioners will "consider signing a letter to the Bureau of Land Management protesting the agency's decision to require mitigation in certain areas for impacts caused by the proposed TransWest Express power line." According to the article, "in the letter to the state directors of the Colorado and Wyoming Bureau of Land Management offices, the county challenges the BLM's legal authority to require compensatory mitigation in areas designated as Land with Wilderness Characteristics."

Bureau Of Reclamation

Companies Selected For Cultural Resource Services For Reclamation Projects.

The [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (5/14, Smith) reports that the Bureau of Reclamation has "awarded a \$50 million contract to three companies to address cultural resource work for reclamation projects in the region." According to a May 11 press release from the BOR, "the contract was awarded to Alpine Archaeological Consultants Inc. of Montrose, Colorado; Woods Canyon Archaeological Consultants Inc. of Cortez, Colorado; and Statistical Research Inc. of Tucson, Arizona." The companies will work with the agency and "other entities to identify, document and evaluate cultural sites located in project sites in northern New Mexico, western Colorado and the Upper Colorado region, the release states."

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

IPAA Supports Interior's Efforts To Remove Regulatory Hurdles To Offshore Safety.

[World Oil](#) (5/11) reported the IPAA has expressed support for the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement's "proposed revisions to the Blowout Preventer Systems and

Well Control Rule." IPAA Senior Vice President Dan Naatz said "IPAA is pleased to see BSEE is taking a closer look at the technically-flawed Well Control Rule, which missed the mark on improving the safety of America's offshore oil and gas operations." Naatz added that "the overly-prescriptive Obama-era rule did not allow for flexibility or the ability to utilize the latest technologies, which would only enhance the safety of offshore operations. Instead, the 2016 rule created bureaucratic red tape for producers and arduous regulatory constraints at the expense of safety."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Feds Upgrade Cactus To 'Threatened' As Numbers Rebound.

[Courthouse News](#) (5/14, YOUNG-GRINDLE) reports that "reduced federal protection for a recovering southwest cactus is a win for ranchers who find protections burdensome, and for conservationists who strive to protect imperiled species." The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's "said Monday it has finalized the downlisting of the Tobusch fishhook cactus due to recovery." Amy Lueders, the agency's Southwest regional director, said, "While the Tobusch fishhook cactus isn't completely out of the woods yet, the signs are very encouraging. Today's decision to downlist the cactus is a victory for the collaborative model of conservation that engages states, private landowners and conservation groups to play a central role in species' recovery."

Also reporting is [E&E Publishing](#) (5/14, Doyle).

Group Wants Lake Sturgeon Federally Protected.

The [Duluth \(MN\) News Tribune](#) (5/14, Myers) reports that the Center for Biological Diversity has "petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to list lake sturgeon as 'threatened' across the 23 states where it was known to exist." According to the article, "sturgeon numbers have declined an estimated 99 percent since the 1800s." Marc Fink, an attorney for the center, said, "These behemoth fish are a bellwether for the health of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River. To guarantee their long-term survival, we need to give real protection to (sturgeon) and their habitats."

Forest Service Declines To Appeal Wolf Creek Decision.

The [Pagosa \(CO\) Daily Post](#) (5/14, Brown) reports that "the United States Forest Service and Fish and Wildlife Service has declined to appeal an Order issued last May by Senior Judge Richard P. Matsch setting aside decisions approving a land exchange that would provide necessary road access for the long-sought Village at Wolf Creek development." The Forest Service "failed to file the required appeal brief by the May 9 deadline despite having originally notified the court last November of its intent to appeal." Matthew Sandler, Staff Attorney for Rocky Mountain Wild, said, "We believe this decision by the Forest Service marks the end of this litigation process. Our hope is that the developer also sees it this way."

Federal Agency Plans Lamprey Treatment Of River.

The [Owosso \(MI\) Argus-Press](#) (5/14) reports that "U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service personnel will apply lampricides to the Shiawassee River system in Shiawassee and Saginaw Counties to kill sea lamprey larvae burrowed in the stream bottom between Tuesday and May 23, weather permitting." According to officials, "application will be completed in about three days."

How Do You Count Cottontail Rabbits When It's Hard To Even Find Them?

The [Concord \(NH\) Monitor](#) (5/14, Brooks) reports that "scientists with the New Hampshire Agricultural Experiment Station at the University of New Hampshire have developed a method to estimate the abundance of New England cottontail populations." According to the article, "the noninvasive method provides an important tool in the effort to conserve this region's only native rabbit, a state-endangered species in Maine and

New Hampshire." Adrienne Kovach, assistant professor of natural resources and the environment, said, "Our work provides the methodology to measure abundance and therefore an approach for monitoring trends and response to management in the future."

National Park Service

Amid Shake-up Reports, Yellowstone Superintendent Mulls Future At Park.

[KBZK-TV](#) Butte, MT (5/14, Sherer) reports that following a Washington Post report that "a half-dozen top National Park leaders will be moved to other jobs in a major shake-up of the agency by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke," Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Dan Wenk said he "might" move "if the call came with reasons why I should go, and how I could be helpful in terms of the National Park Service, to which I've devoted my career." However, "Wenk says he still has work to do in the park."

Group Behind Theodore Roosevelt Library Scraps 2-site Plan.

The [AP](#) (5/14, Nicholson) reports that "the foundation working to build a Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library in western North Dakota on Monday scrapped plans to split the planned complex into two parts, in two cities, angering a top state lawmaker." In March, the nonprofit foundation's board "voted to build a museum at Theodore Roosevelt National Park and a library about a half hour's drive away in Dickinson, where a university project is digitizing tens of thousands of Roosevelt documents." But "the board reversed course Monday, voting 9-2 to build the whole project at the park."

Drinking Water At Bryce Canyon National Park Tests Positive For E.

Coli. [KTVX-TV](#) Salt Lake City (5/14, Francis) reports that Garfield County Commission and the Garfield County Sheriff "jointly signed a formal resolution Monday that said the water" at Bryce Canyon National Park poses an "immediate, direct and significant threat to the health and safety and welfare of Garfield County's residents and visitors." According to officials, "the park's water system has tested positive for E. Coli contamination multiple times in the past seven years and the problem still has not been resolved." Officials "say the contamination due to Utah prairie dogs that have burrowed into the ground near the spring source."

Study Finds Highest Microplastic Concentration In The Apostle Islands.

[Wisconsin Public Radio](#) (5/14, Kaeding) reports that "a recent study of 35 national parks found the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore had the highest concentration of microplastics." The National Park Service "teamed up with South Carolina's Clemson University and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Marine Debris Program in 2015 for the two-year study." The study's lead author Stefanie Whitmire, research scientist with the Baruch Institute of Coastal Ecology and Forest Science at Clemson University, said, "There were some areas that were a lot higher like the Apostle Islands, which actually had the highest load of microplastics of any of our sites. The next highest sites were in the Pacific Islands in Hawaii."

Storm Update: Forecasters Lowered The Odds Of A Tropical System Forming In The Gulf Of Mexico To 30 Percent Over The Next Five Days.

The [Miami Herald](#) (5/14, Staletovich, Gurney) reports that "a messy storm brewing in the Gulf of Mexico and dumping heavy rain on South Florida looked a little less likely to become a tropical system Monday afternoon." According to the article, "ince most of the heavy weather is in the storm's southeast corner, that likely means more rain for South Florida, not unwelcome news for an area that has been struggling with drought conditions and wildfires." The rain on Monday "helped douse a massive fire in the Big Cypress National Preserve that had blazed across more than 82,000 acres, the National Park Service said in an email."

The [Naples \(FL\) Daily News](#) (5/14, Hamilton) reports that National Park Service

spokeswoman Punky Moore said, "It will take quite a bit of rain before they are considered out."

National Park Service: Fire Island's Watch Hill Marina Reopens Friday.

[Newsday \(NY\)](#) (5/14, Irizarry) reports that "the Watch Hill marina on Fire Island reopens Friday after being closed since September 2016 so electrical and lighting systems damaged by superstorm Sandy could be replaced, the National Park Service said." According to officials, "the marina at Sailors Haven to the west, which reopened in summer 2015 after months of Sandy-related repairs, also will open on Friday." Fire Island National Seashore facility manager Jim Dunphy said in a news release, "We are excited to have both sites up and running this season. With the opening of Watch Hill we can close the chapter on Hurricane Sandy recovery at Fire Island National Seashore."

Blue Ridge Parkway Pavement Preservation Work Starts In Asheville.

The [Asheville \(NC\) Citizen-Times](#) (5/14, Chávez) reports that the Blue Ridge Parkway will be "slightly stifled with slower traffic and single-lane closures as a major repaving project gets underway Tuesday." The project is "in an effort to upgrade the more than 80-year-old scenic motor road and keep it from crumbling under the weight of 16.1 million visitors a year." The National Park Service is "undertaking a 'pavement preservation' project on more than 65 miles of the parkway between Milepost 359 to the road's terminus at Milepost 469 in Cherokee."

After Pressure On Social Media, Zion Visitor Admits To Graffiti On Rock.

[KSTU-TV](#) Salt Lake City (5/14, Hartman) reports that "following 'swift and severe' backlash on social media, a suspect responsible for graffiti on a rock in Zion National Park has come forward." The backlash was unleashed "after a visitor at the park posted a photo of the graffiti, condemning the act." The National Park Service "stated that the individual was cooperating with investigators."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (5/15, Knox).

Insular And International Affairs

DOI Working To 'Build Bridges' With 5 Nations.

The [Marshall Islands Journal](#) (5/11) reported that Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular and International Affairs Doug Domenech "visited the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands late last month where he gave remarks and met with leaders of US-affiliated islands at the 23rd Micronesian Islands Forum." Domenech said, "The US government and the Department of the Interior under the leadership of Secretary Zinke will continue to be bridge-building partners. We must strengthen our relationships as we confront serious challenges together, both in the US territories as well as in the freely associated states." Domenech "participated in a second day of presentations at the leaders meeting to learn more about regional issues of concern for the islands of Micronesia such as workforce development, energy, invasive species, transportation, health, telecommunications, tourism, and preserving the environment."

Fr. Hezel: Japan Achieved Successes In Micronesia Unlike Any Nation Before Or Since.

The [Marianas Variety](#) (5/14) reports that "in the years before World War II, the Micronesian islands under Japanese rule were self-supporting, a level of economic independence never reached during the U.S. colonial period after the war or since independence in the mid-1980s, noted Pacific historian Francis X. Hezel, SJ, told a packed lecture hall at Sophia University." Hezel's lecture, titled "Micronesia and Japan – The Islands that the Japanese Forgot," was delivered "to an audience of more than 130 – including Palau Ambassador Francis Matsutaro, Federated States of Micronesia Ambassador John Fritz, and Marshall Islands Ambassador Tom Kijiner." According to the

article, "the Jesuit priest, who began serving in the Micronesian region in 1963, was invited to speak in Tokyo by Ambassador Peter Y. Sato, president of the Association for Promotion of International Cooperation, a private foundation that seeks to strengthen Japan's ties with nations of Oceania and the Caribbean, and Chancellor T. Sakuma, SJ, and President Yoshiaki Terumichi of Sophia University, the historic Jesuit school."

The Island Of Yap Where They Use Stones Instead Of Coins.

The [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (5/14) reports that on the Micronesian island of Yap, "instead of US dollars, giant limestone discs – some of which weigh more than a car – have been used to carry out transactions."

Bird Project Takes Flight.

The [Guam Daily Post](#) (5/12, Lujan) reports that a mural by local curator and artist Joshua Agerstrand "serves as part of an educational campaign commissioned by the Department of Agriculture's brown tree snake control awareness program, Kontra I Kulepbla – Challenge the Snake." The article notes that "KIK is part of a three-pronged federal program funded by the Office of Insular Affairs, which includes the U.S. Department of Agriculture as the firsthand respondents to snake control – physically going out to trap and suppress the local brown tree snake population, and the U.S. Geological Survey, which researches combative solutions, such as better snake bait."

How Hawaii Schools Are Building Bridges To Micronesian Students.

The [Honolulu Civil Beat \(HI\)](#) (5/9, Lee) examines "efforts to narrow the achievement gap among the growing numbers of Micronesian students in Hawaii." According to the article, "many schools around Hawaii have adopted a hands-on approach to reach these kids – and their families." For example, "there are training workshops for teachers centered around Micronesian culture, events tailored to familiarize Micronesian parents with the schools and community-organized events that recognize Micronesian student academic achievement."

Mapp Promises Two 'Beautiful' Announcements And Plan To Address GERS Insolvency.

The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (5/11) reports that Gov. Kenneth Mapp is "teasing what he said are two 'very beautiful' announcements that he promised would be revealed soon." The article confirms "that at least one relates to a major development at the Limetree Bay Terminals, with a possible restart of refining on the east side of the former refinery." Mapp also said "that he would soon unveil a plan to address the insolvency situation of the Government Employees' Retirement System (G.E.R.S.)."

US Geological Survey

Another Fissure Opens On Hawaii's Kilauea Volcano.

[NBC Nightly News](#) 📺 (5/14, story 4, 2:10, Holt) reported, "Hawaii's volcano disaster is intensifying as new eruptions spew lava and toxic gas" and "dozens of homes destroyed and many more in danger...with the largest eruption considered imminent." NBC (Almaguer) added that the volcano is releasing "gas so toxic, it's killing trees and grasses." [ABC World News Tonight](#) 📺 (5/14, story 5, 2:55, Muir) reported, "Nineteen fissures all spewing hot lava and gases." ABC adds, "Now all eyes on the crater where the lake has dropped 1,000 feet." The [CBS Evening News](#) 📺 (5/14, story 5, 2:05, Glor) reported, "The danger around Hawaii's Kilauea volcano is growing by the hour." CBS (Begnaud) added that the lava is "potentially trapping 2,000 residents."

The [AP](#) (5/15, Jones) reports on the continuing eruption of the Kilauea volcano, which had "another fissure spewing lava and unhealthy gas" open Monday. Meanwhile, "a crack in the Earth that emerged a day earlier was sending molten rock on a slow run for the ocean, officials said." In the past 12 days, "nearly 20 of the fissures have opened"

and "officials warn it may soon blow its top."

4 Earthquakes Recorded Near Central Oklahoma Town.

The [AP](#) (5/14) reports several earthquakes have "been recorded near the central Oklahoma town of Crescent." According to the US Geological Survey, four quakes "ranging from 2.4 to 4.1" occurred "Sunday night through Monday morning, all near Crescent, about 35 miles north of Oklahoma City." Oklahoma's numerous earthquakes "in recent years have been linked to the underground injection of wastewater from oil and natural gas production." Regulators in the state "have directed several producers to close or reduce volumes in some wells."

Opinion Pieces

It's Really Early, But Is Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Running For President In 2024?

In his column for [Townhall](#) (5/15, Sherman), Steve Sherman writes that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke appears to be "the first Republican to attempt to quietly dip his toe in the Iowa waters" with an eye on running for president in 2024. Sherman writes that if "Zinke is preparing to take his show on the road in Iowa, modeling" former Sen. Rick Santorum's "method is a good idea." Sherman points to Santorum's strong "ground game," his willingness to "field the tough questions," and his "great sacrifice and hard work."

Guest View: Heed Nature's Lessons, And Don't Rebuild Sperry Chalet.

In an op-ed for the [Montana Standard](#) (5/14, O'Brien), Colleen O'Brien, a business owner in East Glacier, opposes the plan to rebuild Sperry Chalet as "a misguided attempt to recover an irrecoverable loss." O'Brien asks, "How many tens of millions are we willing to spend to build yet another exclusive lodge that will never replace the one we lost?" She writes "that money would be better spent on toilets and shuttle buses, projects that ensure access to the park while helping to mitigate the impact of so many visitors on critical habitat."

Top National News

Media Analyses: US Embassy Opening Overshadowed By Deadly Palestinian Protests.

Media coverage of the opening of the new US Embassy in Jerusalem was largely overshadowed by protests in Gaza, where at least 55 people were killed and over two thousand were injured by the Israeli military. Reports are generally critical of Israel over its use of "excessive force" against protesters and note the White House blamed Hamas for the violence.

[NBC Nightly News](#) 📺 (5/14, story 2, 3:10, Holt) reported, "Dozens of Palestinians have been killed and thousands more wounded as protests erupt over the US Embassy in Jerusalem." Matt Bradley reported from Gaza where "tens of thousands of Palestinian protesters have been trying...to breach that border into Israel. The reaction from Israel, such as sniper fire and artillery, has led to more deaths here." Palestinians are planning to hold more demonstrations Tuesday. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, A1, Schwartz, Jones) reports on its front page that the Gaza protests are expected to peak Tuesday, on what Palestinians call Nakba Day, marking the day after the anniversary of Israel's founding on May 14, 1948.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) 📺 (5/14, story 4, 3:40, Muir) said "tens of thousands of Palestinians protested" the embassy's move. At least 55 protesters were killed, according to Palestinian health authorities, and more than 2,700 injured. ABC said the images from Gaza are a "stark contrast" from the celebrations in Jerusalem, where Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hailed it as "a great day for Israel." President Trump spoke via

video, "Our greatest hope is for peace. The United States remains fully committed to facilitating a lasting peace agreement." [The Hill](#) (5/14, Manchester) reports the President also [tweeted](#) his congratulations, "Big day for Israel. Congratulations!"

The [CBS Evening News](#) (5/14, story 2, 3:20, Glor) said that while "President Trump made good on his campaign promise to move the US Embassy...the reality today was violence, especially in Gaza." Holly Williams reported from Gaza, where "Israeli soldiers dropped tear gas canisters from drones. They had already dropped leaflets warning Palestinians not to get too close to the fence. And when they did, the Israelis used live ammunition."

The [Jerusalem Post](#) (5/14, Ahronheim) reports that "some 40,000 Palestinians took part in violent demonstrations at 13 different locations along the fence," and the [Times Of Israel](#) (5/14) reports the Israeli army said that "three of those killed were trying to plant explosives at the border fence," and in "three separate incidents, Palestinian gunmen opened fire at Israeli troops." The [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Morris, Balousha) says Monday's protests "appeared to have a more violent edge than in previous weeks. Some young men brought knives and fence cutters." No Israeli soldiers were injured, though, in the protests and Israel "drew widespread condemnation for an excessive use of force."

[USA Today](#) (5/14, Plachta, Bacon) reports the Palestinian Foreign Ministry said in a statement, "This disproportionate and illegal use of lethal force against unarmed civilian protesters is criminal." Israeli military spokesman Lt. Col. Jonathan Conricus, however, blamed Hamas, saying the group had "encouraged Palestinians to breach the border fence." White House Deputy Press Secretary Raj Shah also blamed Hamas for the deaths, saying the group was "cynically provoking" the Israeli response.

The [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Hudson) reports Israel, Shah argued, "has the right to defend itself." The Post says the Administration's "refusal to criticize Israel for the escalating violence was immediately criticized by Palestinian and human rights groups who said the United States must call on its key ally to exercise restraint amid the escalating chaos and violence." In an interview, Palestinian envoy to the US, Husam Zomlot, said, "The US silence is license to kill for Israel, and Israel is taking this license to heart and implementing it in full."

The [Washington Times](#) (5/14, Miller) reports Shah also insisted that Monday's violence "did not signal the peace deal had derailed." Said Shah, "I don't think it hurts the peace plan. The peace plan will be introduced at the appropriate time." Kellyanne Conway said on [Fox News' The Story](#) (5/14), "We think these deaths are tragic, of course, any loss of life is. At the same time, Hamas bears the responsibility for killing these individuals." The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Davis) says that while the White House "said the violence in Gaza would not hinder its efforts to seek an end to the conflict," the Administration "also made it abundantly clear on Monday that Mr. Trump was currently siding with Israel" by blaming Hamas for the violence.

To the [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Eglash), Monday's "joyous ceremony" was "a largely symbolic step that nonetheless is of deep political significance, here and in the Palestinians territories." In his video address, Trump "said that he was still hopeful for peace between Israelis and Palestinians," but "at a hastily convened news conference," Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas called the new US embassy "an illegal outpost," and called Monday's killings in Gaza "a massacre." Abbas, the [CBS Evening News](#) (5/14, story 4, 1:40, Glor) reported, "said he would never accept any peace deal put forward by the Trump Administration at this point."

Many reports also contrasted the celebratory scene at the embassy with the deadly clashes in Gaza. [Bloomberg News](#) (5/14, Noueihed), for example, says the day's events "produced split-screen cable television coverage in the US showing the ceremony at the new embassy and the fighting in Gaza," and to the [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Morris, Balousha), the violence in Gaza "was jarring contrast with the star-studded opening ceremony for the embassy in Jerusalem." Under the headline "Deadliest Palestinian Protests In Years Mar Historic Embassy Opening," the [Washington Times](#) (5/14, Frantzman) says Monday was "a day of surreal, split-screen contrasts" as "the daughter

of President Trump headlined a celebration of the opening of a US Embassy in Jerusalem" and "just miles away more than 50 Palestinians were killed in the deadliest protests against Israeli occupation in years."

[Politico](#) (5/14, Nelson) likewise says Monday's images "made for jarring split screens beamed worldwide," and the [New York Times](#) (5/14, Halbfinger, Kershner, Walsh) reports that "even as Palestinians' anger erupted, American and Israeli officials celebrated President Trump's move of the embassy to Jerusalem." In its lead story, [Fox News Special Report](#) (5/14) reported that the opening of the new embassy "is sparking a wide range of emotions. From jubilation among Israel and its supporters in the Trump Administration, to deadly rage from Palestinians and their supporters throughout the world."

The [AP](#) (5/14, Flaherty, Lucey) reports the President "and his top aides on Monday hailed the opening of the new US Embassy in Jerusalem as a 'great day.'" Jared Kushner told the opening ceremony, "While presidents before him have backed down from their pledge to move the American embassy once they were in office, this president delivered. Because when President Trump makes a promise, he keeps it."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14) editorial page also praises Trump for fulfilling his campaign promise to move the embassy, noting that the move had been promised by multiple US presidents before him, including Bill Clinton and George W. Bush.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (5/14, story 2, 3:10, Holt) noted that Trump's daughter Ivanka was also on hand, "helping...unveil the new embassy seal," and [Reuters](#) (5/14) reports that during the ceremony, Netanyahu thanked Trump for "having the courage to keep your promises." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/14, Zavis), however, notes that Monday's ceremony "was shunned by US allies in western Europe," and [Bloomberg News](#) (5/14, Ramadan) reports that while the ceremony was in progress, EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini issued a statement, "The ties of the Jewish people to Jerusalem are irrefutable, and must not be denied. And the same is true for the ties of the Palestinian people to the city."

Jeff Glor reported on the [CBS Evening News](#) (5/14, story 3, 3:20) that the UN's human rights office "criticized what it called the 'shocking killing of dozens by Israeli live fire,' but Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu said Israel was acting in self-defense."

The [New York Times](#) (5/14) editorializes that the President "delivered the embassy as a gift without concession or condition" to Israel, and "the world did not witness a new dawn of peace and security for two peoples who have dreamed of both for so long. Instead, it watched as Israeli soldiers shot and killed scores of Palestinian protesters, and wounded thousands more." The Times acknowledges that Israel "has every right to defend its borders," but officials "are unconvincing when they argue that only live ammunition – rather than tear gas, water cannons and other nonlethal measures – can protect Israel from being overrun."

Dana Milbank writes in his [Washington Post](#) (5/14) column, "Here's a split-screen for our times: While Israeli troops were killing dozens of Palestinian protesters in Gaza on Monday, Trump administration representatives were 50 miles away in Jerusalem, celebrating with Israeli officials the opening of the US Embassy there and praising their mutual devotion to peace. ... Because nothing says 'peace' like 58 Palestinians killed, 2,700 wounded, renewed hostilities between Iran and Israel, the entire region aflame and US allies reeling."

US Boosts Security At Embassies In The Region. The [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Lamothe) reports that the US military "dispatched additional Marines to guard US embassies" as the US Embassy in Israel prepared to move from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Spokesman Marine Capt. Ryan Alvis "said the service would not disclose the number of additional Marines deploying or where they are going but said the reinforcements had been requested." [NBC News](#) (5/14, Kube) reported on its website that the reinforcements "were sent to Israel, Turkey and Jordan, citing five defense officials."

Protest Organizer Decries Violence, Vows To Continue. Palestinian journalist Ahmed Abu Ratima, who helped organize the Gaza protests, writes in the [New York Times](#) (5/14) that "despite the response from Israeli snipers, I continue to be committed to

nonviolence, as are all of the other people 'coordinating' this march. ... We want peaceful, equal coexistence to be our message." At the same time, he pledged to continue to protest writing, "We are not going back to our subhuman existence. We will keep knocking at the doors of international organizations and our Israeli jailers until we see concrete steps to end the blockade of Gaza."

Pastor Who Said Jews Are Going To Hell Led Prayer At Embassy Opening. The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Haag) reports that "a Dallas evangelical pastor who once said that Jewish people are going to hell and a megachurch televangelist who claimed that Hitler was part of God's plan to return Jews to Israel both played prominent roles" at Monday's opening ceremony. Robert Jeffress, who is pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas, "delivered a prayer at the opening ceremony on Monday, while the Rev. John C. Hagee, a televangelist who founded Christians United for Israel and leads a San Antonio megachurch, gave the closing benediction."

[Politico](#) (5/14, Nelson) reports Mitt Romney called Jeffress a "religious bigot" who is unworthy of such an honorary role. On Twitter Sunday night, Romney said, "Robert Jeffress says 'you can't be saved by being a Jew,' and 'Mormonism is a heresy from the pit of hell,. He's said the same about Islam. Such a religious bigot should not be giving the prayer that opens the United States Embassy in Jerusalem."

Israeli Ambassador Awards Trump Medal. [Breitbart](#) (5/14, Moons) reports Israeli Ambassador to the US Ron Dermer, at an event celebrating Israel's 70th independence Monday night in Washington, "praised and awarded a medal" to President Trump "for recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, moving the US embassy there, and for leaving the Iran nuclear deal." The ambassador "told the crowd of several hundred" that Trump was honored "because of his bold and historic decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital." Vice President Pence accepted the award on Trump's behalf.

Iranian Group Offers \$100,000 For Destruction Of New Embassy. The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (5/14, Kredo) reports that a "hardline Iranian organization is reportedly offering a \$100,000 reward to any person who bombs the newly opened US embassy in Jerusalem, according to a translation of Farsi language reports." A group known as the Iranian Justice Seeker Student Movement "is reported to have disseminated posters calling for an attack" on the new embassy in exchange for a "\$100,000 dollar prize."

Media Analyses: Trump's Overture To China On ZTE Is A Stunning Shift.

Following on his Sunday [tweet](#) about "working together" with Chinese President Xi Jinping "to give massive Chinese phone company, ZTE, a way to get back into business, fast," President Trump [tweeted](#) Monday afternoon, "ZTE, the large Chinese phone company, buys a big percentage of individual parts from US companies. This is also reflective of the larger trade deal we are negotiating with China and my personal relationship with President Xi."

The [AP](#) (5/14) reports that the Commerce Department "last month blocked ZTE from importing American components for seven years" before the President's "surprising overture" this weekend. White House Deputy Press Secretary Raj Shah said that Trump has asked Commerce Secretary Ross "to look into lifting or easing sanctions" against ZTE "as part of a 'give and take' with China."

The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Swanson, Landler, Bradsher) reports under the headline "Trump Shifts From Trade War Threats To Concessions In Rebuff To Hard-Liners" that "the shift is an abrupt reversal that reflects another twist in the pitched battle inside the White House between the economic nationalists...and more mainstream advisers." Treasury Secretary Mnuchin "has taken the lead role in trying to head off potentially harmful tariffs and investment restrictions on China and has succeeded, at least for now, in persuading Mr. Trump to adopt a more conciliatory approach." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, A1, Wei, Davis) reports on its front page that the President's announcement was not preceded by interagency discussions on the shift.

Bret Baier reported on [Fox News Special Report](#) (5/14) that Trump is "raising eyebrows" with the move, while Jim Sciutto reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (5/14) that "every US intel agency said that ZTE phones...are at risk of surveillance, electronic

backdoors, by the Chinese government." ZTE also violated US sanctions against both North Korea and Iran "and lied about" doing so. Tom Rogan of the [Washington Examiner](#) (5/14, Rogan) says ZTE is "a partial front company and cover operation for the Chinese intelligence community and a critical node by which Beijing seeks to steal American secrets."

[Bloomberg News](#) (5/14, Sink) reports that the President's "conciliatory move to help" ZTE "stoked bipartisan condemnation in Washington Monday, as lawmakers warned the US president's concession could endanger national security." [USA Today](#) (5/14, Jackson) reports that "critics hit President Trump for seeking to help a Chinese phone company accused of involvement in cyber espionage against Americans."

The [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Paletta, Lynch, Dawsey) reports that "senior Republicans said they were caught off guard." Sen. Charles Grassley said, "I'm kind of surprised, considering the decisions that were made previously on national security; it kind of surprises me, and I haven't figured it out." The [Washington Post](#) (5/14, Hawkins) reported earlier that Sen. Marco Rubio tweeted that the "problem with ZTE isn't jobs & trade, it's national security & espionage." Rubio said on [Fox News' Ingraham Angle](#) (5/14), "I don't feel bad for these companies, because frankly they have benefited greatly and continue to benefit greatly from the theft of intellectual property. ... To be selling American technology to ZTE is going to allow them to get it and then reverse-engineer it."

[Bloomberg News](#) (5/14, Sink) reports that Senate Minority Leader Schumer was also critical, saying, "This leads to the greatest worry, which is that the President will back off on what China fears most – a crackdown on intellectual property theft – in exchange for buying some goods in the short run." Bloomberg reports that another Democrat, Rep. Tim Ryan (D-OH), pointed out that "Trump's tweets had highlighted layoffs in China even as autoworkers were losing their job in his home state."

[Bloomberg News](#) (5/14, Woods, Leonard) reports that hours before Trump's Monday tweet, Ross told reporters at the National Press Club that the US was "exploring alternatives to punish" ZTE. Ross said, "ZTE did do some inappropriate things. They've admitted to that. The question is, are there alternative remedies to the one that we had originally put forward and that's the area we will be exploring very, very promptly."

In an editorial headlined "Trump Lets ZTE Off The Hook," the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14) faults Trump's arbitrary style of decision-making for a radical and unexpected reversal that shocked even Trump's closest advisers. Steve Hayes of the Weekly Standard said on [Fox News Special Report](#) (5/14), "I'm scratching my head and disappointed at the President's tweet. ... This is an indication of the ad hoc national security policy making that I think we have seen from President Trump too often over the first 18 months in office." [The Hill](#) (5/14, Chalfant, Breland) headlines its report "Lawmakers Stunned By Trump Push To Help Chinese Company."

Trump, Kim Disagree On Whether Disarmament, Sanctions Relief Comes First.

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (5/14, Tweed) reports President Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un "appear to be on a collision course over" whether disarmament should precede sanctions relief. Both Secretary of State Pompeo and NSA Bolton said on Sunday that "the U.S. needs proof that North Korea's denuclearization is complete, verifiable, and irreversible before sanctions are lifted," while "Kim has called for a step-by-step process to rid the Korean Peninsula of nuclear weapons." Bloomberg adds that reconciling the two sides "is crucial for" the success of the upcoming Trump-Kim summit. Still, in an interview with Fox News Sunday, Pompeo said, "America's interest here is preventing the risk that North Korea will launch a nuclear weapon into L.A. or Denver or into the very place we're sitting here this morning," raising "questions about whether the U.S. would accept a deal that simply prevents North Korea from being able to hit the American homeland with a nuclear bomb."

Defector: North Korea Has Different Concept Of Denuclearization. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Chae, Jeong) reports former North Korean deputy ambassador in London Thae Yong Ho, who defected to the South, said that Kim has a different concept of

denuclearization than the US. He added that Washington's denuclearization demands would challenge the North's fundamental power structure.

Politico: Despite GOP Claims, Little Evidence Tax Cuts Are Impacting Economy.

[Politico](#) (5/14, Faler) reports that while Republicans "are pointing to the strong economy as proof their new tax law is working its magic," there is "little evidence the tax cuts are already having an impact across the economy, which was already humming even before the law was enacted." This "hasn't stopped the GOP from claiming credit" as the "economic dividends of the new law are central to their midterm plans."

SCOTUS Strikes Down Sports Betting Law, Allowing States To Enter \$150 Billion Industry.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (5/14, story 6, 1:20, Glor) reported that the Supreme Court "has opened the door to a dramatic expansion of legal sports betting." CBS (Crawford) reported that the justices "said a 1992 federal law that banned all but a handful of states from having sports betting violated states rights." The gaming industry "is calling this a ground-breaking decision that will revolutionize the gambling business, and it's also a major victory for states like New Jersey, which challenged the law and says it will have sports betting up and running there in a couple weeks."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (5/14, story 3, 2:10, Holt) reported that the "the 6-3 ruling declared the federal law unconstitutional, a violation on state's rights." NBC (Williams) added that "it opens the door to betting on pro and college games of all kind, but where you can place your bets is up to the states." Nine states "already have laws or will to legalize sports betting, and a dozen more plan to consider similar laws to bring sports gambling to half the state," and all are "hoping to get a piece of \$150 billion a year Americans already bet illegally."

The [AP](#) (5/14, Gresko) reports that the court "gave its go-ahead for states to allow gambling on sports across the nation, striking down a federal law that barred betting on football, basketball, baseball and other sports in most states." The court struck down the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act, which "forbade state-authorized sports gambling with some exceptions" and "made Nevada the only state where a person could wager on the results of a single game." Justice Samuel Alito "wrote for the court, 'The legalization of sports gambling requires an important policy choice, but the choice is not ours to make. Congress can regulate sports gambling directly, but if it elects not to do so, each state is free to act on its own. Our job is to interpret the law Congress has enacted and decide whether it is consistent with the Constitution. PASPA is not.'" Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer and Sonia Sotomayor dissented.

The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Liptak, Draper) reports that the dissenting justices said "the majority had ruled too broadly. 'The court wields an ax,' Justice Ginsburg wrote, 'instead of using a scalpel to trim the statute.'"

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14, Kendall, Kirkham) reports that Justice Alito was joined by Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Anthony Kennedy, Clarence Thomas, Elena Kagan and Neil Gorsuch. The Journal adds that sports leagues and the National Collegiate Athletic Association had sued New Jersey to put a halt to its betting plans, but that the four major professional sports leagues – the National Football League, National Basketball Association, Major League Baseball and National Hockey League – have been preparing for this ruling, with the NBA and MLB positioning themselves for a cut of the action in their sports, while the NFL is expected to seek legislation that would require any new sports gambling operation to utilize the league's officially sanctioned data.

[Bloomberg News](#) (5/14, Stohr) reports that sports gambling "could begin in a matter of weeks in casinos and racetracks in New Jersey, which instigated the legal fight by repealing its gambling ban," and that Mississippi, Pennsylvania, New York, Delaware and West Virginia "could follow soon, and the number of states might reach double digits by the end of the year."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14) editorializes in support of the ruling from a libertarian point of view, arguing that the issue was not so much gambling as individual

liberty.

In an editorial, [USA Today](#) (5/14) urges Congress to put limits on the scope of sports gambling, emphasizing the inherent financial risks to individuals and for states who might see entry into the betting industry as an attractive source of easy revenue without reckoning the potential for corruption.

In an op-ed for [USA Today](#) (5/14), Geoff Freeman, president and CEO of the American Gaming Association, argues that the ruling “will deliver what millions of Americans have been seeking – a safe, legal and regulated environment to bet on sports,” and that “through smart, efficient regulation, we also can finally create a betting market that protects consumers, preserves the integrity of the games we love, empowers law enforcement to fight illegal gambling, and generates new revenues for states, sports leagues and broadcasters.”

Trumka, Walsh Argue For Federal Infrastructure Spending.

In an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14), AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka and Boston Mayor Marty Walsh make a case for federal investment in infrastructure, writing that infrastructure spending would create jobs. Trumka and Walsh argue that the President’s infrastructure plan would reduce the federal contribution to infrastructure projects and increase the burden on cities and states.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“Trump’s Failure In Jerusalem.” The [New York Times](#) (5/14) editorializes that President Trump “delivered the embassy as a gift without concession or condition” to Israel, and “the world did not witness a new dawn of peace and security for two peoples who have dreamed of both for so long. Instead, it watched as Israeli soldiers shot and killed scores of Palestinian protesters, and wounded thousands more.” The Times acknowledges that Israel “has every right to defend its borders,” but officials “are unconvincing when they argue that only live ammunition – rather than tear gas, water cannons and other nonlethal measures – can protect Israel from being overrun.”

“The Legacy Of Stop-And-Frisk In New York’s Marijuana Arrests.” The [New York Times](#) (5/14, Board) editorializes on the treatment of black and Latino people by the New York Police Department with respect to “petty marijuana offenses,” saying that a recent Times investigation showed that “marijuana use has been informally legalized for white, middle-class citizens even as it has remained punishable under the law for black and Latino New Yorkers.” The Times says that though the legislature “failed to make the public display of marijuana an offense akin to a traffic violation,” prosecutors “should lead the way by refusing to bring these cases to court at all.”

Washington Post.

“One Year Of Integrity From Robert Mueller.” The [Washington Post](#) (5/14) says in an editorial that “by all appearances,” Special Counsel Robert Mueller “has performed with professionalism, integrity and remarkable efficiency. That is not President Trump’s view, of course.” But Mueller “has secured guilty pleas from, or indictments against, 19 people and three firms,” and there is no evidence that Mueller “has overstepped proper boundaries of prosecutorial behavior.”

“A Positive Sign From The Middle East: Iraq’s Democratic Election.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (5/14) calls Iraq’s elections possibly “the most significant development of the year thus far” and “a remarkable achievement” due to their being “competitive, fair and largely free of violence.” The Post adds this could be “an opportunity to reinforce the incipient shift toward nonsectarian politics built around support for Iraqi sovereignty – including from Iran.”

“Maryland Took A Step To Protect Vulnerable, Young Lives. Other States Should Follow Suit.” The [Washington Post](#) (5/14) in an editorial endorses Maryland’s move under Gov. Larry Hogan to require “insurance companies to be more diligent before insuring the lives

of children.” The bill, which will take effect next January “mandates insurance companies [to] tighten underwriting procedures and standards on juvenile life insurance policies.” The Post suggests there should be “national action,” but also says that is “unlikely and would be challenged as counter to the 1945 McCarran-Ferguson Act, which gives states exclusive domain over insurance regulation.”

Wall Street Journal.

“Trump Lets ZTE Off The Hook.” In an editorial on President Trump’s decision to help rescue the Chinese telecom company ZTE, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14) faults Trump’s arbitrary style of decision-making for a radical and unexpected reversal that shocked even Trump’s closest advisers.

“The Issue Is Liberty, Not Gambling.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14) editorializes in support of the Supreme Court’s ruling striking down a sports betting law from a libertarian point of view, arguing that the issue was not so much gambling as individual liberty.

“From Washington To Jerusalem.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/14) editorial page praises President Trump for fulfilling his campaign promise to move the US Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, noting that the move had been promised by multiple US presidents before him, including Bill Clinton and George W. Bush.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[CBS Ups Stakes In Feud With Redstones](#)

[Scores Killed, Thousands Injured In Protests As US Opens Jerusalem Embassy](#)

[Supreme Court Ruling Opens Door To Sports Betting](#)

[How The World’s Biggest Companies Are Fine-Tuning The Robot Revolution](#)

[US, China Weigh Deal On ZTE, Agricultural Tariffs](#)

[“Love Stories Of Tumblr”: How The Entire Internet Became A Dating Site](#)

New York Times:

[Death In Gaza, New Embassy In Jerusalem, And Peace As Distant As Ever](#)

[Waves Of Gazans Vs. Israeli Tear Gas And Bullets: Deadliest Mayhem In Years](#)

[Supreme Court Ruling Favors Sports Betting](#)

[Iraqi Voters Strengthen Hand Of Militia Leader Who Battled U.S.](#)

[Pence Is Trying To Control Republican Politics. Trump Aides Aren’t Happy.](#)

[Trump Shifts From Trade War Threats To Concessions In Rebuff To Hard-Liners](#)

Washington Post:

[“Glorious Day” In Jerusalem Met With US Allies’ Criticism And Arab Anger](#)

[Maverick Cleric’s Sway Could Rattle US-Iraq Relationship](#)

[Before Talks With China, President’s Tumult Reigns](#)

[Trump’s Trump-Like Adversary](#)

[58 Palestinians Killed In Gaza Protests](#)

[Justices Rule That States Can Authorize Sports Betting](#)

Washington Times:

[Deadliest Palestinian protests in years mar historic Jerusalem embassy opening](#)

[Supreme Court clears path for states to legalize sports gambling](#)

[Trump administration moves to shift gun export approval from State to Commerce](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night’s Network News:

ABC: First Lady Kidney Surgery; WH Aide-McCain Comment; First Lady Kidney Surgery-Expert Comment; US Israel Embassy Move; Hawaii Volcano Eruption; Severe Weather; Teen Vehicle Prank Death Investigation; UK Royal Wedding Week; Prom Gone Wild;

Armed Mother Gunman Confrontation; Milwaukee Police Violence; Cleveland Home Explosion; Lois Lane Dies.

CBS: First Lady Kidney Surgery; US Israel Embassy Move; US Israel Embassy Move-Local Reactions; US Israel Embassy Move-Palestine; Hawaii Volcano Eruption; SCOTUS Sports Betting Ruling; California Child Abuse; Teen Vehicle Prank Death Investigation; Eggs Salmonella Outbreak Warning; Christian Pilgrimage.

NBC: First Lady Kidney Surgery; US Israel Embassy Move; SCOTUS Sports Betting Ruling; Hawaii Volcano Eruption; Severe Weather; California Child Abuse; Teen Vehicle Prank Death Investigation; Eggs Salmonella Outbreak Warning; UK Royal Wedding Week; Lois Lane Dies; Prom Gone Wild; Aircraft Tail Clipped Incident; Care Giver Charity.

Network TV At A Glance:

US Israel Embassy Move – 15 minutes, 10 seconds

Hawaii Volcano Eruption – 7 minutes, 10 seconds

First Lady Kidney Surgery – 7 minutes, 5 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: First Lady Kidney Surgery; US Israel Embassy Move; California Minor Earthquake; Midterm Primaries.

CBS: First Lady Kidney Surgery; US Israel Embassy Move; Milwaukee Police Violence; SCOTUS Sports Betting Ruling; California Minor Earthquake.

FOX: Missouri Governor Scandal Trial; Seattle Corporate Homeless Tax; California Child Abuse.

NPR: US Israel Embassy Move; Missouri Governor Scandal Trial; First Lady Kidney Surgery; Seattle Corporate Homeless Tax.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Gives remarks at the 37th Annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service; participates in a Senate Republican policy lunch.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public schedule announced.

US Senate: 9:30 AM Senate Intelligence Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers William R. Evanina to be Office of the Director of National Intelligence National Counterintelligence and Security Center Director Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 106, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

10:00 AM Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee fifth hearing on U.S. leadership in the Asia-Pacific – East Asia, The Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy Subcommittee hearing on 'American Leadership In The Asia Pacific, Part 5: The Asia Reassurance Initiative Act', with testimony from Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs Randall Shriver; and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Alex Wong Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate HELP Committee hearing on the 340B Drug Discount Program – Hearing on 'Examining Oversight Reports on the 340B Drug Pricing Program', with testimony from Department of Health and Human Services Assistant Inspector General for Evaluation and Inspections Ann Maxwell; and Government Accountability Office Health Care Team Director Dr Debra Draper Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 430, Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Smokey Robinson testifies to Senate Judiciary Committee – Hearing on 'Protecting and Promoting Music Creation for the 21st Century', with testimony from recording artist, songwriter, and producer Smokey Robinson; National Music Publishers Association President and CEO David Israelite; Public Knowledge Policy Counsel Meredith Rose; GRAMMY-nominated singer/songwriter and Recording Academy trustee Justin Roberts; Digital Media Association CEO Chris Harrison; Music Choice CEO Dave Del

Beccaro; Recording Industry Association of America President Mitch Glazier; and songwriter Josh Kear Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Nominations hearing considers Aimee Kathryn Jorjani to be Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Chair Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 366, Washington, DC www.energy.senate.gov

10:00 AM Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Executive Session Location: Rm 538, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://banking.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Banking Committee considers Federal Reserve governor nominees – Nominations hearing considers Richard Clarida to be Federal Reserve System Board of Governors Vice Chairman and member, and Michelle Bowman to be a Federal Reserve System Board of Governors member Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 538, Washington, DC <http://banking.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing on U.S. Army FY'19 budget – Defense Subcommittee 'Hearing to review the Fiscal Year 2019 funding request and budget justification for the U.S. Army', with testimony from Secretary of the Army Mark Esper; and U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley Location: Rm 192, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

1:00 PM President Trump attends Senate Republican policy lunch – President Donald Trump addresses Republican senators at their weekly policy lunch, discussing tax reform, the economy, and North Korea Location: U.S. Capitol, Mansfield Rm, Washington, DC <http://src.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/SenateGOP>

2:30 PM Senate Commerce subcommittee hearing on trends in mobile technologies – Communications, Technology, Innovation and the Internet Subcommittee hearing on 'There's an App for That: Trends in Mobile Technologies', with testimony from Innovate Mississippi Chairman / Mississippi Coding Academies founder Mike Forster; Technology Policy Institute Research Fellow Dr Sarah Oh; and ACT – The App Association President Morgan Reed Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 253, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce>

2:30 PM DHS Secretary Nielsen testifies to Senate Homeland Security Committee – Hearing on 'Authorities and Resources Needed to Protect and Secure the United States', with testimony from Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen Nielsen Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 342, Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>

3:30 PM SBA Administrator McMahon testifies to Senate Small Business Committee – Hearing on 'The State of Small Business in America: An Update from the U.S. Small Business Administration', with testimony from Small Business Administration Administrator Linda McMahon Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 428A, Washington, DC <http://sbc.senate.gov/>

4:00 PM Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing on FY'19 Congressional budgets – Legislative Branch Subcommittee 'Hearing to review the Fiscal Year 2019 funding request and budget justification for the Senate Sergeant at Arms and the U.S. Capitol Police', with testimony from Senate Sergeant at Arms Michael Stenger; and U.S. Capitol Police Chief Matthew Verderosa Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 138, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

US House: 1:00 PM House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer regular pen-and-pad briefing Location: H-144, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC www.democraticwhip.gov/ <https://twitter.com/WhipHoyer>

2:00 PM House meets for legislative business – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including consideration of 'H.R. 613 – Lieutenant Osvaldo Albarati Correctional Officer Self-Protection Act of 2017', 'H.R. 4854 – Justice Served Act of 2018', 'H.R. 5242 – School Resource Officer Assessment Act of 2018', as amended, 'H.Res. 285 – Expressing the sense of the United States House of Representatives that Congress and the President should empower the creation of police and community alliances designed to enhance and improve communication and

collaboration between members of the law enforcement community and the public they serve', 'H.R. 4895 – Medgar Evers National Monument Act', as amended, 'H.R. 2991 – Susquehanna National Heritage Area Act', as amended, 'S. 35 – Black Hills National Cemetery Boundary Expansion Act', 'S. 1285 – Oregon Tribal Economic Development Act', and 'H.R. 1417 – National Law Enforcement Museum Exhibits Act' under suspension of the rules Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

5:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on 'H.R. 2, the Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018', 'H.R. 5698 – Protect and Serve Act of 2018', and 'S. 2372' – the legislative vehicle for the VA MISSION Act of 2018 Location: U.S. Capitol, H-313.

Washington, DC <http://www.rules.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

5:30 PM Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee markup hearing on FY 2019 Appropriations Bill Location: Rm 2007, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

House of Representatives annual Financial Disclosure Statements due – Deadline for annual Financial Disclosure Statements for 2017 from House of Representatives and related offices members, officers, and certain employees Location: TBD

<http://www.house.gov/ethics/>

Other: 8:00 AM Axios360 News Shapers event with GOP Sen. James Inhofe and Dem Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton – Axios360 News Shapers event, with Republican Sen. James Inhofe, Democratic Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton and Austin Mayor Steve Adler speaking with Axios' Mike Allen on the news of the day and how it relates to Infrastructure Week Location: AJAX, 1011 4th Street Northwest, Washington, DC

www.axios.com <https://twitter.com/axios>

8:00 AM Brookings Institution discussion on 'building inclusive infrastructure' – 'Building inclusive infrastructure: How the built environment limits pathways to opportunity, and what we can do about it' Brookings Institution Metropolitan Policy Program discussion as part of Infrastructure Week 2018, to discuss how shared economic, social, and environmental challenges look from an infrastructure perspective, and present the 'most promising' innovations to help address them. Includes pre-taped remarks from Democratic Sen. Amy Klobuchar Location: NACo/NLC Leadership Center, 660 North Capitol St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.brookings.edu> <https://twitter.com/BrookingsInst> #TimeToBuild

9:00 AM GOP Rep. Brad Wenstrup attends AEI conversation on reforming the VA by empowering veterans – American Enterprise Institute hold conversation with Republican Rep. Brad Wenstrup on 'reforming the Department of Veterans Affairs by empowering veterans'. Other speakers include Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) Government Relations Acting Associate Executive Director Heather Ansley, Student Veterans of America Policy Director Lauren Augustine, RAND Corporation Senior Policy Researcher Phillip Carter, Military Times Deputy Editor Leo Shane III, and AEI Program on American Citizenship Manager Rebecca Burgess and Director Gary Schmitt Location: American Enterprise Institute, 1789 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC <http://www.aei.org/> <https://twitter.com/AEI>

9:00 AM FDA Commissioner Gottlieb speaks at Alliance for Health Policy Brazda Breakfast for Reporters – Alliance for Health Policy Brazda Breakfast for Reporters on 'Perspectives on the 2018 HHS Drug Pricing Guidance'. FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb delivers remarks, followed by panel discussion with Pharmaceutical Care Management Association Policy and Federal Affairs Senior Vice President Kristin Bass, PhRMA Policy, Research, & Membership Executive Vice President Lori Reilly, Blue Cross Blue Shield Association Office of Policy and Representation Senior Vice President Justine Handelman, and Campaign for Sustainable Drug Pricing (CSRxP) Executive Director Lauren Aronson Location: APCO Worldwide – Global Headquarters, 1299 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC www.allhealthpolicy.org <https://twitter.com/AllHealthPolicy>

11:00 AM Wreathlaying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery for Lao Hmong veterans – Wreathlaying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery marking the 43rd anniversary of the fall of the Royal Kingdom of Laos by invading Soviet-backed communist forces of North Vietnam and the mass exodus of refugees across the Mekong River in 1975-76, conducted by Lao and Hmong-American veterans of the Vietnam War

and their U.S. Special Forces Advisors. Speakers include Democrats Sens. Jack Reed and Sheldon Whitehouse and Rep. Jim Costa, Republicans Sens. Richard Burr and Lisa Murkowski and Reps. Devin Nunes and Sean Duggan, Under Secretary of Veterans' Affairs for Memorial Affairs Randy Reeves, Center for Public Policy Analysis Director Philip Smith, Lao Veterans of America's Christy Herr, Lao Veterans of America Institute of California President Maj. (Ret.) Cheurchai Vang, U.S. Special Forces Association's Col. (Ret.) Ray Oden and Col. (Ret.) James Bruton, and Arlington National Cemetery Superintendent Katharine Kelley Location: Arlington National Cemetery, Lao Veterans of America Monument, Arlington, VA centerforpublicpolicyanalysis.org <https://twitter.com/CPPAInfo>

Center for American Progress Ideas Conference – Center for American Progress Ideas Conference. Speakers include Democratic Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand, Elizabeth Warren. Cory Booker, Sherrod Brown, and Doug Jones, Reps. Ted Lieu and Terri Sewell, Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders, Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, New York City Mayor Bill De Blasio, and Planned Parenthood Federation of America President Cecile Richards Location: TBD www.americanprogress.org <https://twitter.com/amprog> #CAPIdeas2018

HUD Secretary Carson addresses REALTORS Legislative Meetings & Trade Expo – REALTORS Legislative Meetings & Trade Expo. Day two speakers include Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Ben Carson and Democratic Rep. Emanuel Cleaver * Held in various venues Location: Washington, DC <http://www.realtor.org> <https://twitter.com/REALTORS> #NARLegislative

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Trevor Noah: "I honestly don't know how these trade negotiations are going to shake out, but at this rate, I have a feeling Trump will drop the tariffs against China, and give them everything in exchange for a pair of nunchucks."

Trevor Noah: "Trump has gotten so popular [in Israel] that they are naming an Israeli soccer team after him, which is perfect because a lot of people don't know this, but that team only won their league because James Comey stepped in and tripped a player on the opposing team."

Jordan Klepper: "Months ago, Trump announced that he would be moving the US embassy to Jerusalem, a decision so bold it was condemned by many policy experts, saying it could provoke violent chaos, or cause Armageddon. But for a significant number of American evangelicals, that's not a bug – that's a feature."

Stephen Colbert: Trump celebrated "Mother's Day in the traditional way: a trade war with China."

Stephen Colbert: Trump's effort to help the Chinese company ZTE "is directly opposed to everything he's said. I can't wait for his next tweet: 'Have you heard about all the problems in Mexico? We've got to let those good people into our country. Build the ramp!'"

Stephen Colbert: "Make no mistake, ZTE is no friend of the US. In fact, the FBI, CIA, and NSA have publicly accused the company of allowing its devices to be used by the Chinese government to spy on Americans. And as an American, I do not want some Chinese company spying on me. I want Facebook doing it."

Stephen Colbert: "ZTE is only in financial trouble because they admitted to making illegal shipments to Iran and North Korea. So the Trump Administration banned American companies from selling it components. You can't just reverse your own penalty. 'Sir, I pulled you over because you were driving 90 in a school zone. But you seem upset, so want to drive my car? It's got lights.'"

Stephen Colbert: "According to the US Ambassador to Israel, the act of moving the embassy sends the message to Israel that, 'you are not alone.' It's true, Israel isn't alone. There's a bunch of other people who live there, too. They're the angry ones."

Stephen Colbert: "The world's on fire, but at least we know Donald Trump is getting advice from the best people. For example, Fox News host and hurtful Irish stereotype Sean Hannity."

Jimmy Fallon: "I saw that President Trump made a Mother's Day video where he called his mom a great person, really warm and really smart, which can only mean one thing – Trump was adopted."

Jimmy Fallon: "Trump released a video message for Mother's Day where he called his mom warm, but also tough. Then he released another video where he said the same thing about thin-crust pizza."

James Corden: "The highest court in the land has struck down a federal law that banned sports gambling. So now it's going to be legal to bet on sports. ... This is all part of Trump's new economic initiative, 'A Failed Casino For Every State.'"

James Corden: "President Trump is still trying to work out a trade deal with China. Yesterday on Twitter, Trump tried to reassure Americans that the United States would work out a deal, writing, 'Be cool, I will all work out!' Be cool? What are his next words of wisdom? Chillax? If it doesn't work out with China, no biggie. Either way, it'll be sick."

James Corden: "According to a new article, most weeknights Donald Trump and Fox News host Sean Hannity have a bedtime phone call with each other. Just when you thought Trump couldn't be more in love with Fox News. You just know they end every phone call like, 'You hang up first, Sean.' 'No, you hang up first. 'Well, you didn't hang up either!'"

Seth Meyers: "White House senior adviser Jared Kushner spoke today at the opening of the new US Embassy in Jerusalem. It's great practice for Kushner because next week, he has to do an oral report in Social Studies."

Seth Meyers: "During his speech today, Jared Kushner credited President Trump for recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Don't ask Trump to name the capital of any other countries, though."

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1-202-208-4482

Conversation Contents

Speaking Calendar: Week of 5/14

Attachments:

/55. Speaking Calendar: Week of 5/14/1.1 Speaking Calendar.xlsx
/55. Speaking Calendar: Week of 5/14/1.2 Speaking Engagement Form.docx

"Nachmany, Eli" <eli_nachmany@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Nachmany, Eli" <eli_nachmany@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue May 15 2018 16:43:52 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>
CC: "Newell, Russell" <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>
BCC: susan_combs@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Speaking Calendar: Week of 5/14
Attachments: Speaking Calendar.xlsx Speaking Engagement Form.docx

Team,

Attached, please find the latest version of the speaking calendar, updated for the week of 5/14.

The Speaking Engagement Form is attached on here as well; if an upcoming speaking engagement of yours is not on the calendar, please have an assistant in your hallway fill out the form and send it to Russ Newell and me, with Laura Rigas CC'd.

--

Sincerely,

Eli Nachmany
Speechwriter, Office of Communications
U.S. Department of the Interior
(202) 706-9285

Date	Speaker	Title	Bureau/Agency	Event/Organization	Topic (if applicable)
5/14	Brenda Burman	Commissioner	Bureau of Reclamation	Lake Nighthorse Opening 15th Annual Stewardship Partnership Meeting - Southern Company and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Energy Exposition 2018, Organized by Kit Jennings	
5/16	Aurelia Skipwith	Deputy Assistant Secretary	Fish, Wildlife and Parks		
5/22	Vincent DeVito	Counselor for Energy Policy Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary	Office of the Secretary		
5/23	John Tahsuda		Indian Affairs Intergovernmental and External Affairs	Tribal/Interior Budget Council Americans For Tax Reform, Coalition Leaders Summit	
5/23	Todd Wynn	Director Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary			
5/31	John Tahsuda		Indian Affairs Bureau of Ocean Energy Management	United Tribes of Michigan meeting Offshore Operators Committee General Meeting	
6/6	Walter Cruickshank	Acting Director	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management		
6/7	Walter Cruickshank	Acting Director		3rd Annual US Offshore Wind Conference	

Location	OCO Remarks?	Press	Audience	Point of Contact
Lake Nighthorse, CO		Open	General public	
Biloxi, MS		Closed		
Loveland, CO		Not expected		
Washington, DC		?	Federal and Tribal Members	
Anchorage, AK		Closed	Conservative think tanks and grassroots group leaders from around the country	
Petoskey, MI		?	Tribal	
Austin, TX		Closed	Oil and gas industry	
Boston, MA		Open	Industry, academia, government	

Date	Speaker	Title	Bureau/Agency	Event/Organization	Topic (if applicable)	Location
10/16	Todd Willens	Asst. Deputy Secretary	Office of the Deputy Secretary	American Recreation Coalition luncheon	Outdoor recreation	Washington, D.C.
10/16	John Tahsuda	PDAS	Indian Affairs	National Congress of American Indians	Upholding trust	Milwaukee, WI
10/17	Tim Williams	Deputy Director	Office of Intergovernment and External Affairs	Independent Petroleum Association of America Regulators' Forum	responsibilities	
10/17	Casey Hammond	DAS	Land and Minerals Management	Independent Petroleum Association of America Regulators' Forum	Secretary's Top 10 priorities	Washington, D.C.
10/17	Aurelia Skipwith	DAS	Fish, Wildlife & Parks	Independent Petroleum Association of America Regulators' Forum	Bureau of Land Management issues	Washington, D.C.
10/17	Kate MacGregor	Acting Asst. Secretary	Land and Minerals Management	National Mining Association	Conservation	Washington, D.C.
10/17	Austin Ewell	DAS	Water and Science	Folsom Dam auxiliary spillway completion ceremony	Secretary's priorities for hardrock mining and coal	Washington, D.C.
10/19	David Bernhardt	Deputy Secretary	Office of the Deputy Secretary	National Congress of American Indians		Folsom, CA
10/19	John Tahsuda	PDAS	Indian Affairs	Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council	Sovereignty	Milwaukee, WI
10/20	Daniel Jorjani	Principal Deputy Solicitor	Office of the Solicitor	CA State Bar Environmental Law Conference at Yosemite	Upholding trust responsibilities	Polson, MT
10/21	John Tahsuda	PDAS	Indian Affairs	Alaska Federation Natives & Consultation	Regulatory reform	Fish Camp, CA
10/24	Scott Angelle	Director	Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement	Louisiana Gulf Coast Oil Exhibition Keynote Luncheon	Upholding trust responsibilities and Licensed Indian Traders regulations consultation	Anchorage, AK
10/24	Todd Willens	Asst. Deputy Secretary	Office of the Deputy Secretary	NM Assn of Conservation Districts	Secure and reliable energy production from the Outer Continental Shelf	Lafayette, LA
10/26	John Tahsuda	PDAS	Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs/Bureau of Indian Affairs	DOI-Self Governance Advisory Quarterly Meeting	Public access, forest management, sage grouse	Taos, NM
10/27	Scott Angelle	Director	Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement	Louisiana Chemical Association	Reorganization	Washington, D.C.
10/31	Scott Cameron	PDAS	Policy, Management & Budget	ACT-IAC 2017 Executive Leadership Conference	Energy dominance	New Orleans, LA
11/1	John Tahsuda	PDAS	Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs/Bureau of Indian Affairs	Native American Heritage Month Opening Ceremony	Management efficiency and effectiveness	Williamsburg, VA
						Washington, D.C.

11/1 Greg Sheehan	Principal Deputy Director	US Fish and Wildlife Service	Organization of American States 2017		
11/2 Kate MacGregor	Acting Asst. Secretary	Land and Minerals Management	Conservation Champion Award	Award presentation	Washington, D.C.
11/3 John Tahsuda	PDAS	Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs/Bureau of Indian Affairs	Women in Energy Infrastructure		Washington, D.C.
11/7 John Tahsuda	PDAS	Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs/Bureau of Indian Affairs	Federal Bar Association Indian Law Conference - DC	Land into trust, tribal courts	Washington, D.C.
11/8 Scott Angelle	Director	Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement	NACA 2017-Federal Contracting Policy & Advocacy Conference	Economic development for Native communities	Washington, D.C.
11/8 John Tahsuda	PDAS	Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs/Bureau of Indian Affairs	Deepwater Operations Conference		Galveston, TX
11/8 Steve Wackowski	Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Alaska	Office of the Secretary	Tribal/Interior Budget Council		Washington, D.C.
11/9 Marshall Critchfield	Advisor	Fish, Wildlife, & Parks	Alaska Miners Association Convention	Federal policy regarding hard rock resources on federal land	Anchorage, AK
11/9 Vincent DeVito	Energy Policy Counselor	Office of the Secretary	Easton Waterfowl Festival Premiere Night	Introducing winner of the duck stamp competition	Easton, MD
11/9 Scott Angelle	Director	Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement	Heartland Institute America First Energy Conference	American Energy Dominance	Houston, TX
11/14 Andrea Travnicek	Acting Asst. Secretary	Water and Science	International Assn. of Drilling Contractors		Austin, TX
11/14 Kathy Benedetto	Senior Advisor	Bureau of Land Management	20th William T. Pecora Memorial Remote Sensing Symposium	Application of Earth Observing Data	Sioux Falls, SD
11/14 David Bernhardt	Deputy Secretary	Office of the Deputy Secretary	Idaho Cattle Association		Sun Valley, ID
11/16 Kate MacGregor	Acting Asst. Secretary	Land and Minerals Management	Western Caucus Luncheon	Western issues	Washington, DC
11/16 John Tahsuda	Acting Asst. Secretary	Indian Affairs	Grand Junction Petroleum and Mining Club Presentation		Grand Junction, CO
11/17 Vincent DeVito	Energy Policy Counselor	Office of the Secretary	"Mvskoke Etlwv: The Muscogee People"	Meet and greet	Washington, DC
11/21 Steve Wackowski	Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Alaska	Office of the Secretary	TBD: U.S. Chamber of Commerce, U.S. Gas Infrastructure Exports Initiative	U.S. LNG	Washington, DC
11/28 Scott Cameron	PDAS	Policy, Management & Budget	Commonwealth North Board of Directors meeting	DOI in Alaska	Anchorage, AK
11/28 John Tahsuda	Acting Asst. Secretary	Indian Affairs	Western Weed Coordinating Committee meeting	Invasive species management	Las Vegas, NV
11/29 Alan Mikkelsen	Deputy Commissioner	Bureau of Reclamation	2017 Bureau of Indian Affairs Alaska Providers Conference		Anchorage, AK
11/30 John Tahsuda	Acting Asst. Secretary	Indian Affairs	Oregon Water Resources Congress Annual Conference		Hood River, OR
			Second North American Trilateral Working Group on Violence against Indigenous Women and Girls		Ottawa, Canada

11/30 Aurelia Skipwith	Deputy Asst. Secretary	Fish, Wildlife, & Parks	Environmental Law & Policy Conference	Endangered Species Act	Washington, DC
11/30 Alan Mikkelsen	Deputy Commissioner	Bureau of Reclamation	Association of California Water Agencies Fall Conference & Exhibition	Panel discussion	Anaheim, CA
11/30 Austin Ewell	Deputy Asst. Secretary	Water and Science	Association of California Water Agencies Fall Conference & Exhibition	Panel discussion	Anaheim, CA
12/4 Kathy Benedetto	Senior Advisor	Bureau of Land Management	American Exploration and Mining Association	Reducing barriers to mineral exploration and development	Sparks/Reno, NV
12/5 John Tahsuda	Deputy Asst. Secretary	Indian Affairs	National Indian Gaming Association	Indian trader regulations and proposed land acquisition regulations	Washington, DC
12/6 Kate MacGregor	Acting Asst. Secretary	Land and Minerals Management	Offshore Operators Committee General Mtg		New Orleans, LA
12/6 Vincent DeVito	Energy Policy Counselor	Office of the Secretary	Platts Energy Conference		New York, NY
12/6 Casey Hammond	Deputy Asst. Secretary	Land and Minerals Management	American Exploration and Mining Association	Sage-grouse, regulatory reform	Reno, NV
12/6 Steve Wackowski	Alaska Advisor	Office of the Secretary	Civil Applications Committee, NCAC Reston	Volcanoes and landslide analysis	Reston, VA
12/7 Tim Williams	Deputy Director	Office of External and Intergovernmental Affairs	State Policy Network		Washington, DC
12/7 Jason Funes	Special Assistant	Office of External and Intergovernmental Affairs	ALEC: States & Nations Policy Summit	Energy dominance	Nashville, TN
12/7 Steve Wackowski	Alaska Advisor	Office of the Secretary	American Exploration and Mining Association	Alaska's mining industry	Reno, NV
12/8 Casey Hammond	Deputy Asst. Secretary	Land and Minerals Management	Western Caucus Foundation: Winter Western Policy Roundtable	Federal regulatory and public policy issues related to natural resource issues and economic development in West	Washington, DC
12/8 Marshall Critchfield	Advisor	Fish, Wildlife, & Parks	Western Caucus Foundation: Winter Western Policy Roundtable	Federal regulatory and public policy issues related to natural resource issues and economic development in West	Washington, DC
12/11 Scott Angelle	Director	Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement	Bayou Industrial Group and South Central Industrial Association	Offshore energy	Gray, LA
12/12 Doug Domenech	Assistant Secretary	Insular Affairs	Island Government Finance Officers (IGFOA) Conference		Maui, HI

12/15 Brenda Burman	Deputy Commissioner	Bureau of Reclamation	Colorado River Water Users Association Annual Conference		Las Vegas, NV
1/5 David Bernhardt	Deputy Secretary	Office of the Deputy Secretary	Congressional Sports Foundation		Dallas, TX
1/6 David Bernhardt	Deputy Secretary	Office of the Deputy Secretary	Dallas Safari Club		Dallas, TX
			Heritage Foundation Overcriminalization Working Group	MBTA M-Opinion	Washington, DC
1/10 Gary Lawkowski	Counselor	Office of the Solicitor	Archery Trade Association		Indianapolis, IN
1/11 Rick May	Senior National Advisor	Office of the Secretary	Consultation Part 151 Regulations		Sacramento, CA
1/16 John Tahsuda	Acting Asst. Secretary	Indian Affairs			
1/17 Brenda Burman	Commissioner	Bureau of Reclamation	Mid Pacific Region Water Users Conference	CA water issues	Reno, NV
1/17 Gary Lawkowski	Counselor	Office of the Deputy Secretary	Federalist Society	Migratory Bird Treaty Act	Washington, DC
1/18 John Tahsuda	Acting Asst. Secretary	Indian Affairs	Consultation Part 151 Regulations		Prior Lake, MN
1/19 Greg Sheehan	Principal Deputy Director	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Wild Sheep Foundation Convention		Reno, NV
			Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program Panel		Anchorage, AK
1/19 Steve Wackowski	Senior Advisor for Alaska	Office of the Secretary	Texas Oil and Gas Assn. Legislative and Regulatory Planning Meeting	Federal regulation of oil and gas	
1/23 Scott Angelle	Director	Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement			New Orleans, LA
	Principal Deputy Asst. Secretary				
1/24 Jason Larrabee		Fish, Wildlife, & Parks	Ecological Restoration Business Association Meet and Greet with the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians	Infrastructure	Washington, DC
1/25 John Tahsuda	Acting Asst. Secretary	Indian Affairs	Consultation Part 151 Regulations		Portland, OR
1/25 John Tahsuda	Acting Asst. Secretary	Indian Affairs	Colorado Water Congress Annual Convention		Portland, OR
1/26 Alan Mikkelsen	Deputy Commissioner	Bureau of Reclamation			Denver, CO
				Sage-grouse, livestock grazing, wild horses and burros	
1/29 Casey Hammond	Deputy Asst. Secretary	Land and Minerals Management	Society for Range Management		Sparks, NV
				Secretary's position on tribal relations	
1/31 Steve Wackowski	Senior Advisor for Alaska	Office of the Secretary	DOI Alaska Native relations training		Anchorage, AK
2/1 Vincent DeVito	Counselor for Energy Policy	Office of the Secretary	2018 Power and Energy Ski Conference		Deer Valley, UT
			Federal Delegation Meeting - House Committee on Natural Resources		Salt Lake City, UT
2/2 James Cason	Associate Deputy Secretary	Office of the Deputy Secretary	Close Up Foundation (USET)	Panel with students	Washington, DC
2/5 John Tahsuda	Acting Asst. Secretary	Indian Affairs	United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF)		
2/6 John Tahsuda	Acting Asst. Secretary	Indian Affairs			Washington, DC
				Streamline and improve the listing and ruling process of at-risk species	
2/6 Greg Sheehan	Principal Deputy Director	Fish and Wildlife Service	Forest Landowners Association Board of Directors Meeting		Washington, DC

2/8 John Tahsuda	Acting Asst. Secretary	Indian Affairs	Western Indian Gaming Conference	Fee-to-trust under the Trump administration Interior priorities and accomplishments	Valley Center, CA
2/8 Doug Domenech	Assistant Secretary	Insular and International Affairs	Texas Public Policy Foundation Western Caucus Foundation House Staff Policy		Austin, TX
2/9 Todd Willens 2/12 John Tahsuda	Assistant Deputy Secretary Acting Asst. Secretary	Office of the Deputy Secretary Indian Affairs	Planning Retreat State of Indian Nations		Washington, DC Washington, DC
2/13 Dan Smith	Acting Director	National Park Service	FindYourWay on America's Rivers and Trails	Lasting legacy of the National Trails and Wild & Scenic Rivers Acts (50th year)	Washington, DC
2/13 Brian Steed	Deputy Director	Bureau of Land Management	FindYourWay on America's Rivers and Trails	Lasting legacy of the National Trails and Wild & Scenic Rivers Acts (50th year)	Washington, DC
2/13 Cally Younger 2/13 John Tahsuda	Counselor Acting Asst. Secretary	Bureau of Land Management Indian Affairs	FindYourWay on America's Rivers and Trails National Congress of American Indians 23rd Annual National Indian Women's "Supporting Each Other Honoring Lunch"	Lasting legacy of the National Trails and Wild & Scenic Rivers Acts (50th year)	Washington, DC Washington, DC
2/13 John Tahsuda	Acting Asst. Secretary	Indian Affairs		Protect the Great Lakes and Relationship to DOI Departmental Budget	Washington, DC
2/14 Scott Cameron	Principal Deputy Asst. Secretary	Policy, Management & Budget	Great Lakes Environmental Summit		Washington, DC
2/17 Aurelia Skipwith 2/19 Steve Wackowski	Deputy Asst. Secretary Senior Advisor for Alaska Principal Deputy Asst. Secretary	Fish, Wildlife, & Parks Office of the Secretary	Frederick Douglass Bicentennial Birthday Celebration Meet Alaska Conference and Tradeshow		Washington, DC Anchorage, AK
2/20 John Tahsuda	Principal Deputy Asst. Secretary	Indian Affairs	Consultation Part 151 Regulations Native American Child Safety Act (NACSA)		Phoenix, AZ
2/21 John Tahsuda	Secretary	Indian Affairs Intergovernmental and External Affairs	Guidelines		Albuquerque, NM
2/22 Jason Funes	Special Assistant Principal Deputy Asst. Secretary		FreedomWorks		Oxon Hill, MD
2/22 John Tahsuda	Secretary	Indian Affairs	Consultation Part 151 Regulations Family Farm Alliance Annual Meeting and Conference		Miami, FL
2/22 Brenda Burman	Commissioner	Bureau of Reclamation		Western water issues	Reno, NV

2/22 Aurelia Skipwith	Deputy Asst. Secretary	Fish, Wildlife, & Parks	South Dakota Chamber of Commerce	Tourism through National Parks and National Wildlife Refuges	Pierre, SD
2/22 Marshall Critchfield	Advisor	Insular and International Affairs	Coral Reef Task Force		Washington, DC
2/28 Scott Cameron	Principal Deputy Asst. Secretary	Policy, Management & Budget	2018 Invasive Species Advisory Committee meeting	Implementation of ISAC recommendations	Washington, DC
3/1 Steve Wackowski	Advisor for Alaska	Office of the Secretary	Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference		Anchorage, AK
3/1 John Tahsuda	Principal Deputy Asst. Secretary	Indian Affairs	Indian Trust Asset Reform Act		Portland, OR
3/1 Scott Cameron	Principal Deputy Asst. Secretary	Policy, Management & Budget	2018 Invasive Species Advisory Committee meeting	Implementation of ISAC recommendations	Washington, DC
3/5 Scott Angelle	Director	Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement		Regulators roundtable: Oil and gas industry governance	
3/5 Tim Petty	Assistant Secretary	Water and Science	CERAWeek		Houston, TX
3/6 Aurelia Skipwith	Deputy Assistant Secretary	Fish, Wildlife & Parks	National Ground Water Association, Irrigation Association & Water Quality Association		Washington, DC
3/7 Scott Cameron	Principal Deputy Asst. Secretary	American Sheep Industry Association			Washington, DC
3/7 Todd Wynn	Director	Policy, Management & Budget	CXO Fellows Event (Chief Financial Officers Council)		Washington, DC
3/7 Todd Wynn	Director	Intergovernmental and External Affairs	American Coal Council	What's next for Interior	Clearwater Beach, FL
3/9 Brenda Burman	Commissioner	Bureau of Reclamation	Western Caucus Foundation		
3/9 Ryan Nichols	Advisor	Water and Science		Proctor Creek Urban Waters projects in the Atlanta area	Tempe, AZ
3/14 Joe Balash	Assistant Secretary	Land and Minerals Management	Proctor Creek Celebration of Success		Atlanta, GA
3/15 Tim Petty	Assistant Secretary	Water and Science	Faegre Baker Daniels Energy & Environment Symposium		Washington, DC
3/15 Scott Cameron	Principal Deputy Asst. Secretary	Policy, Management & Budget	Interstate Council on Water Policy		Arlington, VA
3/15 John Tahsuda	Acting Asst. Secretary	Indian Affairs		Cross Boundary Implications for Pre-Border Prevention and Post-Border Mitigation of Invasive Species	
3/18 Brenda Burman	Commissioner	Bureau of Reclamation	Western Governors Association Western Working Lands		Denver, CO
3/26 Rick May	Senior National Adviser for Recreation	Office of the Secretary	Consultation Part 151 Regulations		Mashantucket, CT
			World Water Forum Brasilia		Brazil
			American Sportfishing Association	Recreation and fishing	Crystal City, VA

3/28 Joe Balash	Assistant Secretary	Land and Minerals Management	Scotia Howard Weil 47th Annual Energy Conference		New Orleans, LA
3/28 Scott Cameron	Principal Deputy Asst. Secretary	Policy, Management & Budget	North American Wildlife and Resources Conference	Initiatives with invasive species	Norfolk, VA
3/28 John Tahsuda	Principal Deputy Asst. Secretary	Indian Affairs	Quarterly Self-Governance Consultation, Sharee Freeman		Washington, DC
3/29 Greg Sheehan	Principal Deputy Director	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference		Norfolk, VA
4/3 Walter Cruickshank	Acting Director	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management	Offshore Wind Finance Meeting		New York, NY
4/4 Walter Cruickshank	Acting Director	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management	International Offshore Wind Partnering Forum		Princeton, NJ
4/4 Vincent DeVito	Counselor for Energy Policy	Office of the Secretary	Bakken Federal Executives Group	DOI energy policy Promotion of sport fishing and boating to increase participation	N/A (Conference Call)
4/5 Greg Sheehan	Principal Deputy Director	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council		Washington, DC
4/5 Tim Williams	Deputy Director	Intergovernmental and External Affairs	Center for Growth and Opportunity		Las Vegas, NV
4/6 John Tahsuda	Principal Deputy Asst. Secretary	Indian Affairs	Federal Bar Association's 43rd Annual Indian Law Conference	Public land management Indian Child Welfare Act Panel	Scottsdale, AZ
4/9 Brenda Burman	Commissioner	Bureau of Reclamation	National Water Resources Association		Washington, DC
4/9 TBD	TBD	TBD	National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) Legislative Summit		Washington, DC
4/10 Jason Funes	Special Assistant	Intergovernmental and External Affairs	"Tuesday Morning Group" - Virginia Institute for Public Policy	Interior energy portfolio Federal Offshore Oil & Gas Leasing & Development	Richmond, VA
4/10 Walter Cruickshank	Acting Director	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management	Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation		New Orleans, LA
4/10 Greg Sheehan	Principal Deputy Director	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management		Sheperdstown, WV
4/12 Alan Mikkelsen	Senior Advisor	Bureau of Reclamation	Klamath Water Users Association Annual Meeting		Klamath Falls, OR
4/12 John Tahsuda	Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary	Indian Affairs	Consultation Part 151 Regulations		Mashantucket, CT
4/13 Scott Angelle	Director	Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement	2018 National Ocean Industries Association		Washington, DC
4/13 Walter Cruickshank	Acting Director	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management	2018 National Ocean Industries Association		Washington, DC
4/13 Kate MacGregor	Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary	Land and Minerals Management	National Ocean Industries Association (NOIA)		Washington, DC

4/16 Ben Cassidy	Senior Deputy Director	Intergovernmental and External Affairs	American Council of Snowmobile Associations	Motorized access Administration's energy policy strategy	Washington, DC
4/16 Vincent DeVito	Counselor for Energy Policy	Office of the Secretary	Northern California Power Agency Conference		Washington, DC
4/17 Doug Domenech David Palumbo and	Assistant Secretary	Insular and International Affairs	Flag Day		American Samoa
4/17 Gray Payne	Deputy Commissioner	Bureau of Reclamation	National Association of Clean Water Agencies	Infrastructure	Washington, DC
4/17 James Cason	Associate Deputy Secretary	Office of the Deputy Secretary	Board of Directors		Phoenix, AZ
			BLM National Project Support Team Meeting		
4/18 Austin Ewell	Deputy Assistant Secretary	Water and Science	HayWired Rollout		Berkeley, CA
4/18 John Tahsuda	Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary	Indian Affairs	National Indian Gaming Association Annual Membership Meeting		Las Vegas, NV
4/19 Tucker Davis	Advisor	Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement	Virginia Coal and Energy Alliance's Annual Arbor Day Celebration		Vansant, VA
4/24 Susan Combs	Acting Assistant Secretary	Fish, Wildlife and Parks	Texas Association of Business	Reorganization	Washington, DC
4/24 Susan Combs	Acting Assistant Secretary	Fish, Wildlife and Parks	Texas Farm Bureau		Washington, DC
4/25 Doug Domenech	Assistant Secretary	Insular and International Affairs	Flag Day		American Samoa
4/25 John Tahsuda	Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary	Indian Affairs	2018 Annual Tribal Self-Governance Consultation Conference		Albuquerque, NM
4/26 John Tahsuda	Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary	Indian Affairs	Coalition of Large Tribes		Albuquerque, NM
4/27 Kathleen Benedetto	Senior Adviser	Bureau of Land Management	Good Samaritan Protection to Enhance Abandoned Mine Land Cleanup		Golden, CO (Colorado School of Mines)
4/30 Scott Angelle	Director	Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement	Offshore Technology Conference		Houston, TX
4/30 Walter Cruickshank	Acting Director	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management	Offshore Technology Conference		Houston, TX
4/30 John Tahsuda	Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary	Indian Affairs	Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes		Artesia, NM
4/30 Susan Combs	Senior Advisor	Office of the Secretary	Reorganization Listening Session		Lakewood, CO
5/1 Susan Combs	Senior Advisor	Office of the Secretary	Reorganization Listening Session		Albuquerque, NM
5/2 Susan Combs	Senior Advisor	Office of the Secretary	Reorganization Listening Session		Grand Junction, CO
5/3 Susan Combs	Senior Advisor	Office of the Secretary	Reorganization Listening Session		Cheyenne, WY

5/3 Scott Angelle	Director	Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement	Offshore Technology Conference	Houston, TX
5/3 Rick May	Senior National Adviser for Recreation	Office of the Secretary	RV Power Breakfast	Elkhart, IN
5/9 Kathleen Benedetto	Advisor	Bureau of Land Management	BLM's Nevada Solid Minerals Training Conference	Winnemucca, NV
5/9 David Bernhardt	Deputy Secretary	Office of the Deputy Secretary	Assn. of California Water Agencies	Sacramento, CA
5/9 John Tahsuda	Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary	Indian Affairs	Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association	Washington, DC
5/11 Cally Younger	Acting Deputy Solicitor for Land Resources	Office of the Solicitor	National Mitigation and Ecosystem Banking Conference	Louisville, KY
5/12 Steve Wackowski	Senior Advisor for Alaska	Office of the Secretary	Alaska Safari Club Annual Spring Meeting	Anchorage, AK

OCO Remarks?	Press	Audience	Point of Contact
Yes - drafted	?		
	Open	General assembly/tribal leaders	Brian Clodoosby, (202) 466-7767
	Closed		
	Closed		
	Closed		
	Closed	Members of the Nat'l Mining Association	
	Open		
	Open	General assembly/tribal leaders	Brian Clodoosby, (202) 466-7767
Yes - drafted	Open	MT tribal leaders	Sonja Twoleggins (406) 252-2550
	?	Environmental lawyers	
	Open	AK tribal leaders	Alaska Federation Nation (907) 274-3611
Yes - drafted	Open	Oil and gas industry	
	?		
	?	Tribal	
	Closed	Chemical plant managers from LA Federal and state government/private government contractors	
	Open		
	?		

	Open ?	Energy industry, state and federal	
	?		
	?		
	Open		
	?		
Yes	Open unless objections	Mining industry	
	Open	Local residents	
Yes	?		
	Closed		
	Open ?	Scientists, engineers, students Idaho ranchers	
Yes - drafted	Closed	Congressional members	
	Open ?	Oil and gas industry	
TBD Yes	TBD	TBD	
	Closed	Board of Directors, staff Federal and state government rangeland weeds experts	Slade Franklin, (307) 777-6585
	?		
	Open	OR water users	
	Closed	Representatives of Mexico, Canada, and US governments	

Reviewed	Closed		
	Open	CA public water agency leadership	
	Open	CA public water agency leadership	
	?	Mining industry	Pat Heywood, pheywood@miningamerica.com
	?	Various tribal leaders	
	Closed	Offshore industry and oil and gas	
	?	Energy industry, federal and state officials.	
	Open		
	Closed		
	Closed	Leaders of the State Policy Network	
	Closed	State representatives and stakeholders	
	Open	Mining industry	Pat Heywood, pheywood@miningamerica.com
	?		

?			
?			
Open	Members of the oil and gas community, local business leaders		
Closed			

	Open	Colorado River water users
Yes	?	CSF/DSC members
Yes	?	DSC members
	Closed	
Yes	Open	Retailers
	?	Tribal leaders
	Open	Northern and Central CA water issues
	?	Law students and Fed Soc members
	?	Tribal leaders
	?	
	Closed	
	One trade publication	Agency officials, mitigation bankers, investors, Congressional members/staff
	?	Tribal
	?	Tribal leaders
	Open	
	Closed	
	Closed	USFWS, BLM, NPS, BIA, USGS, and BSEE
	Open (limited)	
	Open (local)	Tribal
	?	Tribal
	Closed	FLA Board of Directors

	?	Tribal
Yes	?	
Yes	Closed ?	House Western Caucus Staff Tribal
	?	Interior and Agriculture employees
	?	Interior and Agriculture employees
	? Open	Interior and Agriculture employees Tribal leaders
	? Open	Tribal Federal officials, environmental NGOs, local governments, business groups Local community members, elected officials, others interested in the legacy of Frederick Douglass
	Open Open	Industry
	?	Tribal
	?	Tribal
Yes	Closed	FreedomWorks volunteers
	?	Tribal
	Open	Western water users

Yes	Closed	
	?	Members of the Coral Reef Task Force
	Open	Federal agency staff, governors, associations
	Open	Officials from the region
	?	Tribal leaders
Yes	Open	Federal agency staff, governors, associations
		International group of senior level energy industry executives and government regulators
	Closed	
	Closed	
	Closed	CXO Fellows
Yes	?	Industry
	?	Western Caucus Foundation members
	?	
	?	
	Closed	Agency officials
Yes	Open	Policy experts, managers
	?	Tribal leaders
	Open	Forum attendees
		Retailers/manufacturers in the fishing industry
	?	

Closed	
Open	Agencies, Committees, private sector
?	Tribal
Open	Agencies, Committees, private sector
Open	Offshore wind industry
Open	Industry, trade associations
?	
Closed	Council members
Closed	Academics and students
?	FedBar Organizations, Law
Open	Students
	NWRA members and water users
?	2,000 members of the organization
Closed	Statewide public policy groups and stakeholders
Closed	Lawyers, landmen, regulators
Open	Conservation agency officials from U.S., Mexico, and Canada
Open	Irrigated agriculture
?	Tribal
Closed	Trade association members
Closed	Trade association members
Closed	

	Closed	Snowmobile Assn. members
Yes	Closed	Public power officials
	?	?
	Closed	NACWA Board of Directors
	?	Team members
	Open	General public, state and local partners, other stakeholders
	?	Tribal
	Open	300 sixth grade students, federal and state agencies
Yes	?	Business, association, and civic leaders
	Closed	30 Texas Farm Bureau leaders
	?	
	?	Tribal
	?	Tribal
	?	Federal agencies, Congressional, state agencies, industry
		Engineers, technicians, executives, operators, scientists, and managers from all fields in the offshore energy sector
	Open	Industry, trade associations,
	Open	government, academia
	?	Law enforcement officers, tribal members
		Denver-based DOI SES
	Closed	employees
	Closed	Stakeholders/AG
	?	CLUB 20
	Closed	Cheyenne-area DOI employees

Open	Engineers, technicians, executives, operators, scientists, and managers from all fields in the offshore energy sector
Open	RV enthusiasts, outdoor industry
Closed	BLM employees
?	Elected board members, opinion leaders, general managers, legal counsel
?	Tribal Leaders of 16 Tribal Nations from South Dakota, North Dakota, and Nebraska.
Open	Ecosystem banking and related markets
Closed	Safari Club International Alaska Chapter members

Conversation Contents

Congressional Affairs Update

Attachments:

/56. Congressional Affairs Update/1.1 5.11.18.docx

"Gustavson, Angela" <angela_gustavson@fws.gov>

From: "Gustavson, Angela" <angela_gustavson@fws.gov>
Sent: Fri May 11 2018 14:35:38 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Angela Gustavson <angela_gustavson@fws.gov>
BCC: susan_combs@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Congressional Affairs Update
Attachments: 5.11.18.docx

Good afternoon,

The Congressional Affairs Update for this week is attached.

This week, Secretary Zinke testified before the Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee on the FY 2019 budget proposal for Interior.

In addition, the House Armed Services Committee held a markup of the National Defense Authorization Act, which included amendments and discussion of interest to the Service.

The Senate released their 2018 Water Resources Development Act and held a hearing on the bill.

Next week, the House Natural Resources Water, Power, and Oceans Subcommittee will hold an oversight hearing on injurious species management.

Have a good weekend,

Angela

Angela Gustavson
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Division of Congressional and Legislative Affairs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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angela_gustavson@fws.gov

CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS UPDATE

Division of Congressional and Legislative Affairs U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

May 11, 2018

2018 Congressional Recess Schedule

<i>Senate</i>	<i>Holidays & Special Days</i>	<i>House</i>
State Work Period May 28-June 1	Memorial Day May 28	District Work Period May 28-June 1
State Work Period July 2-July 6	Independence Day July 4	District Work Period July 2-July 6
State Work Period Aug. 6-Sep. 3	Labor Day Sep. 3	District Work Period July 30-Sep. 3
Sep. 10-Sep. 11	Rosh Hashanah	Sep. 10-Sep. 11
Sep. 19	Yom Kippur	District Work Period Sep. 17-Sep. 21
Oct. 8	Columbus Day	Oct. 8
State Work Period Oct. 29-Nov. 12	Veterans Day Nov. 12 (observed)	District Work Period Oct. 15-Nov. 9
State Work Period Nov. 19-Nov. 23	Thanksgiving Day Nov. 22	District Work Period Nov. 19-Nov. 23
	Targeted Adjournment Date Dec. 14	

HEARINGS AND MARKUPS OF INTEREST

House Committee Holds Markup of Sportsmen's Legislation

On Tuesday, May 8, the House Committee on Natural Resources held a full committee markup of nine bills, one of which was of interest to the Service. H.R. 2591, sponsored by Rep. Austin Scott (R-GA), amends the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to modernize funding for wildlife conservation. H.R. 2591 was passed out of committee by unanimous consent, with one amendment changing the date within the bill from 2017 to 2018.

For more information, please visit:

<https://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=404614>

House Committee Holds Markup of NDAA for FY19

On Wednesday, May 9, the House Committee on Armed Services held a full committee markup of H.R. 5515, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2019. The Chairman's mark of the NDAA, released on May 7, includes several provisions of interest to the Service, including making permanent certain land withdrawals, allowing the transfer of 5,000 acres of land between DOI and DOD, moving the implementation of the Sikes Act from the

Service to DOI, and amending the MMPA to extend the period of incidental take authorization requests from five to ten years. Two amendments were made during the markup that are of interest to the Service, including:

- An amendment offered by **Representative Rob Bishop (R-UT-1)**, which prevents the Service from listing the greater sage grouse and the lesser prairie chicken for ten years. It would also effectively delist the American burying beetle. In addition, it would shield all of these actions from judicial review. **Ranking Member Adam Smith (D-WA-9)** and **Representatives Donald McEachin (D-VA-4), Niki Tsongas (D-MA-3), Anthony Brown (D-MD-4), and Jackie Speier (D-CA-14)** criticized the amendment as unrelated to military operations and therefore inappropriate for the Armed Services Committee to address, not supported by the military, and unnecessary given the existing authorities for DOD flexibility under the ESA and the Sikes Act. **Rep. Bishop** and **Representative Doug Lamborn (R-CO-5)** defended the amendment, stating that current management of the species limits military training opportunities and that states are better suited to manage the species. The amendment passed along party lines, 33-28.
- **Representative Duncan Hunter (R-CA-50)** offered an amendment to include his bill, H.R. 788, Target Practice and Marksmanship Training and Support Act, to the NDAA. The Duncan amendment would amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to limit the state cost-share for shooting range construction, maintenance or expansion to 10 percent, and allow the amounts provided under the Act to be available for five years. **Representative Hunter** stated that his amendment would help recruitment efforts for the military as well as support the health and readiness of existing members of the military. **Representative Steve Russell (R-OK-5)** supported the amendment, while **Representative Susan Davis (D-CA-53)** expressed skepticism that the amendment would increase recruitment. The amendment was adopted by voice vote.

For more information, please visit:

<https://armedservices.house.gov/about/markups/hr-5515-national-defense-authorization-act-fiscal-year-2019>

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee Discusses FY 2019 Budget Request for Interior

On Thursday, May 10, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke testified before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies at an oversight hearing examining the President's budget request for the Department of the Interior for fiscal year 2019. Members spoke to several issues of interest to the Service, including:

- **Chairman Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Ranking Member Tom Udall (D-NM) and Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN)** expressed their support for increases in the FY18 omnibus for addressing the maintenance backlog.
- **Chairman Murkowski** expressed her support for the Administration's efforts to open up federal lands to energy development. **Chairman Murkowski** also asked about the status of the Coopers Landing Bypass land exchange in Alaska.
- **Ranking Member Udall** and **Chairman Murkowski** asked about DOI reorganization efforts and expressed their concerns over the lack of tribal consultation in the planning process. **Senator Steve Daines (R-MT)** praised the inclusion of reorganization in the FY19 budget proposal.
- **Ranking Member Udall** asked for a commitment from the Secretary to follow

congressional direction and intent when executing the FY18 budget.

- **Ranking Member Udall** asked for an update on the Izembek Road Land Exchange. He and **Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)** also expressed their concerns over drilling in the Alaska 1002 area. **Senator Van Hollen** specifically asked about the scientific data to be collected to make a sound decision on drilling.
- **Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL)** asked about the Administration's support for Florida Everglades restoration.
- **Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV)** discussed the need for replacement of the visitor center at Canaan Valley NWR and asked for assurance that the visitor center was a high priority.
- **Senator Steve Daines (R-MT)** discussed his Cottonwood legislation and inquired whether the Secretary supported his efforts to reduce burdens to consultation when agencies receive new information about a species.
- **Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Senator Jon Tester (D-MT), Ranking Member Udall** and **Senator Daines** spoke of the importance of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to their communities and expressed their support of permanent reauthorization of LWCF.
- **Senator Van Hollen** asked about the reinterpretation of the MBTA and whether the new guidance intends for oil companies to no longer pay damages or be held responsible after oil spills for a massive loss of birds covered under the MBTA.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/hearings/hearing-to-review-the-fy2019-budget-request-for-the-us-department-of-interior>

Senate EPW Discusses Water Resources Development Legislation

On Wednesday, May 9, the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works held a legislative hearing to examine S. _____, America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018. This bill is the Senate version of the 2018 Water Resources Development Act.

- **Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD)** noted the importance of this bill to the Chesapeake Bay, specifically addressing the importance of Poplar Island and Mid Bay Island.
- **Ranking Member Tom Carper (D-DE)** asked how grey and green infrastructure can work together on coastal areas.
- **Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY)** mentioned the devastating impacts of aquatic invasive species, and asked what barriers exist to natural infrastructure and wetland restoration projects.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings?ID=754B22D7-63B6-403F-A83A-6855A0DECF61>

UPCOMING HEARINGS AND MARKUPS

House Committee to Mark Up Natural Resource Legislation

On Wednesday, May 16, the House Committee on Natural Resources will hold a markup of pending legislation referred to the Committee. The markup is scheduled for 10:15 a.m. in 1324 Longworth House Office Building.

For more information, please visit:

<https://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=404654>

House Subcommittee to Examine Injurious Species Management

On Thursday, May 17, the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans will hold an oversight hearing entitled “Federal Impediments to Commerce and Innovative Injurious Species Management.” The hearing is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. in 1324 Longworth House Office Building.

For more information, please visit:

<https://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=404660>

INTRODUCED LEGISLATION OF INTEREST

H.R.5763 — To implement the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep. Lowenthal, Alan S. [D-CA-47] (Introduced 05/10/2018) Cosponsors: (12)

Committees: House - Natural Resources, Foreign Affairs

Latest Action: House - 05/10/2018 Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

S.2834 — A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to improve the wetland conservation program.

Sponsor: Sen. Hoeven, John [R-ND] (Introduced 05/10/2018) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: Senate - Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Latest Action: Senate - 05/10/2018 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

S.2827 — A bill to amend the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation Act.

Sponsor: Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM] (Introduced 05/10/2018) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: Senate - Environment and Public Works

Latest Action: Senate - 05/10/2018 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

S.2815 — A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to increase transparency and oversight of third-party litigation funding in certain actions, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Sen. Grassley, Chuck [R-IA] (Introduced 05/10/2018) Cosponsors: (2)

Committees: Senate - Judiciary

Latest Action: Senate - 05/10/2018 Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R.5742 — To provide for a land exchange of Federal and non-Federal land in Whitman County, Washington.

Sponsor: Rep. McMorris Rodgers, Cathy [R-WA-5] (Introduced 05/09/2018) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Transportation and Infrastructure

Latest Action: House - 05/09/2018 Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

H.R.5727 — To establish the San Rafael Swell Western Heritage and Historic Mining National Conservation Area in the State of Utah, to designate wilderness areas in the State, to provide for certain land conveyances, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep. Curtis, John R. [R-UT-3] (Introduced 05/09/2018) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 05/09/2018 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

H.R.5720 — To deauthorize a portion of a project in California, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep. Calvert, Ken [R-CA-42] (Introduced 05/09/2018) Cosponsors: (2)

Committees: House - Transportation and Infrastructure

Latest Action: House - 05/09/2018 Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

S.2811 — A bill to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to reauthorize the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR] (Introduced 05/09/2018) Cosponsors: (6)

Committees: Senate - Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Latest Action: Senate - 05/09/2018 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

S.2809 — A bill to establish the San Rafael Swell Western Heritage and Historic Mining National Conservation Area in the State of Utah, to designate wilderness areas in the State, to provide for certain land conveyances, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Sen. Hatch, Orrin G. [R-UT] (Introduced 05/09/2018) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Latest Action: Senate - 05/09/2018 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R.5697 — To support wildlife conservation, improve anti-trafficking enforcement, provide dedicated funding for wildlife conservation at no expense to taxpayers, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep. Bordallo, Madeleine Z. [D-GU-At Large] (Introduced 05/08/2018) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Natural Resources, Judiciary

Latest Action: House - 05/08/2018 Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the

Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

S.2803 — A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to improve the conversion, use, and storage of carbon dioxide produced from fossil fuels, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Sen. Manchin, Joe, III [D-WV] (Introduced 05/08/2018) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Latest Action: Senate - 05/08/2018 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

S.2800 — A bill to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Sen. Barrasso, John [R-WY] (Introduced 05/08/2018) Cosponsors: (3)

Committees: Senate - Environment and Public Works

Latest Action: Senate - 05/08/2018 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R.5690 — To amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to prohibit the taking for a trophy of any endangered or threatened species of fish or wildlife in the United States and the importation of endangered and threatened species trophies into the United States, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep. Jackson Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18] (Introduced 05/07/2018) Cosponsors: (3)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 05/07/2018 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

H.R.5688 — To amend the Water Resources Development Act of 1990 relating to the operation and maintenance of navigation facilities, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep. Bustos, Cheri [D-IL-17] (Introduced 05/07/2018) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Transportation and Infrastructure

Latest Action: House - 05/07/2018 Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

H.Res.871 — Expressing support for the designation of the week of June 2, 2018, through June 10, 2018, as National Fishing and Boating Week.

Sponsor: Rep. Joyce, David P. [R-OH-14] (Introduced 05/07/2018) Cosponsors: (3)

Committees: House - Transportation and Infrastructure, Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 05/07/2018 Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

H.Res.868 — Expressing support for the designation of May 27, 2018, through June 2, 2018, as "Great Lakes Week".

Sponsor: Rep. Bishop, Mike [R-MI-8] (Introduced 05/03/2018) Cosponsors: (19)

Committees: House - Transportation and Infrastructure, Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 05/04/2018 Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans.

Conversation Contents

Question

David Bernhardt (b) (6)

From: David Bernhardt <(b) (6)>
Sent: Fri May 11 2018 09:59:31 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Susan Combs <susan_combs@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Question

Have you been briefed on this? UPDATE] In response to a petition to delist the species, on or around June 15, FWS plans to send to the Federal Register a proposal to reclassify the American burying beetle from an endangered species to a threatened species. While the primary threats to the species have been ameliorated, ongoing threats remain. FWS will also propose a rule under section 4(d) tailoring prohibitions to those most likely to harm the American burying beetle and its habitats. The American burying beetle currently occurs in Arkansas, Kansas, Massachusetts, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Dakota, and Texas. This finding will likely be opposed by the Center for Biological Diversity and Center for American Burying Beetle Conservation. It is also likely to be opposed by the petitioners, American Stewards of Liberty, the Independent Petroleum Association of America, the Texas Public Policy Foundation, and Dr. Steven W. Carothers, as they petitioned us to delist, not downlist the species. Outreach plans include a regional news release and congressional notifications. A communications plan has been drafted and will be shared with the appropriate offices. (Updated 05/09/2018) Sent from my iPad

"Combs, Susan" <susan_combs@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Combs, Susan" <susan_combs@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri May 11 2018 10:04:33 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: David Bernhardt <(b) (6)>
Subject: Re: Question

no I have not - I am seeing Greg S later today and can ask. Any other actions needed?

On Fri, May 11, 2018 at 11:59 AM, David Bernhardt <(b) (6)> wrote:
Have you been briefed on this?

UPDATE] In response to a petition to delist the species, on or around June 15, FWS plans to send to the Federal Register a proposal to reclassify the American burying beetle from an endangered species to a threatened species. While the primary threats to the species have been ameliorated, ongoing threats remain. FWS will also propose a rule under section 4(d) tailoring prohibitions to those most likely to harm the American burying beetle and its habitats. The American burying beetle currently occurs in Arkansas, Kansas, Massachusetts, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Dakota, and Texas. This finding will likely be opposed by the Center for Biological Diversity and Center for American Burying Beetle Conservation. It is also likely to

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Susan Combs
U.S. Department of the Interior
1-202-208-4482

David Bernhardt <(b) (6)>

From: David Bernhardt <(b) (6)>
Sent: Fri May 11 2018 10:13:14 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Combs, Susan" <susan_combs@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Question

Get up to speed. This will be a hot issue, if its needed.

Sent from my iPad

On May 11, 2018, at 10:04 AM, Combs, Susan <susan_combs@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

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Susan Combs
U.S. Department of the Interior
1-202-208-4482

Susan Combs <susan_combs@ios.doi.gov>

From: Susan Combs <susan_combs@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri May 11 2018 10:31:58 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: David Bernhardt <(b) (6)>
Subject: Re: Question

Will do.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 11, 2018, at 12:13 PM, David Bernhardt <(b) (6)> wrote:

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Sent from my iPad

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